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Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham



Annual Report 2016-17 and Work Programme 2017-18

Check, Challenge, Change

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Welcome

Councillor Brian Steele, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Welcome to the 2016-17 Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny here in Rotherham.

This report presents a summary of the busy work programme undertaken last year by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the three Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC). It also provides a flavour of joint scrutiny work undertaken with our neighbouring local authorities.

A new dimension has been added to the scrutiny function this year with the introduction of pre-decision scrutiny. This is now fully embedded with OSMB scrutinising a small number of the key decisions going to each Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making meeting and adding value, either through making additional recommendations or suggesting alternatives. All the scrutiny recommendations have been accepted and some examples of these are shown on page 7.

Public involvement in scrutiny has always been welcomed and it is positive to have service users coming in to the Town Hall to share their experiences first hand with Scrutiny Members. With many services subject to transformation and development programmes I hope this interaction with the public will be developed further next year, especially going out more into communities.

It is also pleasing to see past reviews which have resulted in positive changes over a longer period. One such example is the previous review of private sector housing by IPSC and their work with regard to Selective Licensing. A recent report has shown that the additional controls and enforcement tools the scheme has provided is already ensuring landlords take more responsibility for their properties and tenants.

Once again working with Rotherham Youth Cabinet was a pleasure when they took over an OSMB meeting to discuss issues regarding young people's access to public transport, providing a constructive challenge to partner agencies. Over the previous three years the young people have focused on mental health and wellbeing and they continue to have a valued role in service development in this area. Recently they worked with officers on a full refresh of the *My Mind Matters* website and provided well-informed feedback to health partners on their policy for transition from children's to adult mental health services.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all scrutiny members for their hard work last year and their commitment to undertaking effective scrutiny in Rotherham. I would also like to thank the co-optees (past and present) who have given their time voluntarily to enhance the scrutiny process. As last year, we have benefited from the expertise of the Centre for Public Scrutiny, through the Local Government Association (LGA), and my thanks go to Dianne Thomas for her support throughout the year.

2016-17 has seen new approaches to scrutiny adopted, including the successful inception of pre-decision scrutiny, clearly demonstrating the added value that scrutiny affords the Council and its democratic decision making processes. I fully anticipate that we will consolidate and build on this progress during 2017-18, continuing to achieve positive outcomes through scrutiny by delivering another work programme focused on key policy and performance agendas.

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Enhancing the scrutiny function

Introduction

In essence, over the last two years, scrutiny in Rotherham has been strengthened significantly. Effective scrutiny is viewed as being central to the improvement plans for the Council and its growing impact is visible both within the organisation and more broadly in the work with our partner agencies.

Longer standing scrutiny members perceive positive changes in the culture of the organisation towards the scrutiny function. There is now more corporate support from senior managers, and access to officers and information have both improved. 2016-17 saw a new Link Officer role established to facilitate links between Directorates and Scrutiny, with each scrutiny committee having at least one Link Officer at Director or Assistant Director level. Cabinet Members are attending scrutiny meetings more often than a few years ago.

Each year the scrutiny work programme is developed and agreed using a prioritisation process to ensure the focus is on the right issues. Core themes running through the work programme since 2015 have been performance management and financial management, for both OSMB and the Select Commissions, to ensure the Council is achieving its priorities and making the progress needed after Government intervention. As the Council has now had many of its decision-making powers restored to Cabinet by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, effective scrutiny remains pivotal to the Council's governance arrangements, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Further work to enhance the scrutiny function by reviewing and reflecting on our approaches and considering alternatives, coupled with support to enable all Scrutiny Members to feel confident in undertaking their scrutiny role, will help to achieve better outcomes for the Borough.

Scrutiny roles

Scrutiny is an important means of engaging Members, Council officers, partner agencies and the public in local democracy by considering major issues that affect the Borough and our communities.

- ◆ Holding to account - As stated above scrutiny is a formal part of the Council's governance processes; providing a "critical friend" to decision makers in ensuring that their decisions reflect the views and priorities of local people and that decisions are implemented properly. The Executive may be held to account by scrutiny reviewing its decisions before they are implemented, known as "call in".
- ◆ Policy development - Our scrutiny committees undertake reviews into areas of concern, consider policies and practices, and look at performance information before making recommendations or suggestions to Cabinet, Commissioners and partners about how policies and services could be improved.
- ◆ Pre-decision scrutiny - One of the successful new approaches to scrutiny introduced in 2016 has been OSMB using the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to select a small number of key decisions to scrutinise in advance of them going to the Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making meetings. Further details of some of the policies chosen and additional recommendations made by OSMB are on page 7.

Cllr Cowles commented about OSMB: *"Currently scrutiny is the most interesting committee to be a member of. Split into pre-scrutiny and scrutiny, as opposition we are allowed to select items for scrutiny and with care we can bring some of our own agenda to the group. It is a group that is very much non-political, that aspect is reserved for the council chamber; it works together in the best interests of the people of Rotherham."*

Approaches to scrutiny

Building on last year when new ways of working with each Select Commission were introduced, a variety of approaches have featured in the Scrutiny work programme as Members looked to find the most effective approach depending on the issue they were scrutinising. For example:

- ◆ Task and finish groups - such as the emergency planning group from IPSC
- ◆ Spotlight reviews - HSC held a short one-off session to look at future delivery of older people's housing
- ◆ Visits to other local authorities to learn from good practice
- ◆ Members accompanied officers on visits to the schools in the mental health pilot
- ◆ Visits to service providers
- ◆ Focused single item meetings

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Enhancing the scrutiny function

- ◆ Full in-depth reviews incorporating visits and multiple sources of evidence
- ◆ Teleconferencing
- ◆ Hearing directly from service users - ILSC
- ◆ Reports or presentations to full meetings - with a large number of newly elected members this helped to build core knowledge, especially around large and complex agendas

Sub-regional scrutiny

This year has seen the growth of more sub-regional scrutiny, with RMBC scrutiny members working together with their counterparts from neighbouring local authorities. This is likely to feature increasingly in the future with the devolution agenda and greater collaboration between local authorities and partner organisations. It is important for Rotherham to be represented on these new bodies to ensure our priorities and concerns are taken into account. Current examples include:

- ◆ Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee - the Chair of OSMB regularly attends the joint scrutiny committee. The work programme has not commenced but the committee has agreed the principles for how it will undertake its scrutiny role.
- ◆ Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Commissioners Working Together Programme - scrutinising NHS service reconfiguration proposals
- ◆ Police and Crime Panel

Development programme

Running in tandem with the scrutiny work programme has been a comprehensive Member induction and development programme, as 26 Members of the Council were newly elected in 2016-17. The programme has focused on honing scrutiny skills through five bespoke learning and development sessions for scrutiny members, also opened up to longer standing Members as refresher sessions.

- ◆ Understanding overview and scrutiny
- ◆ Scrutiny questioning skills
- ◆ Scrutinising external organisations
- ◆ Understanding performance information (tailored sessions for each scrutiny committee)
- ◆ Effective challenge with regard to children's safeguarding

All members of Cabinet, plus the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny, Audit, Planning and Licensing were offered LGA peer mentors, with the majority taking up this opportunity.

"The LGA mentors have been impressed by the commitment of the Rotherham councillors they have been working with to tackle the challenges facing the Council and to strive to turn things round." (Commissioners' letter)

Next steps

After a number of reflective sessions with Members and officers the following areas will be considered in order to build on the positive achievements in 2016-17:

- ◆ continuing to develop the Forward Plan with more detail to facilitate pre-decision scrutiny
- ◆ reviewing and redefining the Link Officer role
- ◆ reflecting on and refining pre-decision scrutiny, for example having core information available sooner to facilitate earlier discussion, creating more time to make changes or to consult
- ◆ developing a new approach to budget scrutiny now the Medium Term Financial Strategy is in place
- ◆ encouraging more public involvement in scrutiny, directly and on-line

Cllr Cusworth, one of the new Elected Members in 2016 reflected:

"My first year on scrutiny has proved to be thoroughly enjoyable, challenging and rewarding. It has allowed me to increase my knowledge in certain subject matters, develop questioning skills and suggest recommendations as part of a team. The training provided has been invaluable and I have particularly enjoyed the subgroups and reviews as they have encouraged looking at best practice in other authorities, digging down beneath performance data and achieving a deeper understanding of how scrutiny can influence, support and hold to account services provided by the Council as well as our partners."

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Getting Involved

Scrutiny Services constantly look at ways to raise public awareness of scrutiny work and to encourage more people to become involved and give their views. Information about the scrutiny process and getting involved is on our webpages at www.rotherham.gov.uk/scrutiny. This includes a “have your say” form to let us know if you would like to submit evidence for a review, make a suggestion or raise a query about scrutiny. We hope this will encourage people to communicate with us on-line and contribute to scrutiny.

Broad themes for the 2017-18 scrutiny work programme are on page 22, providing a flavour of the work coming up. All scrutiny meetings take place in public and include a dedicated slot for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of concern or interest. We are also happy to receive suggestions for future issues or topics for review.

You can find out more about the range of different issues looked at in previous reviews on our website. Two recent examples are waste management/fly tipping and children's mental health services. The responses from Commissioners and Cabinet, plus partners where applicable, to the recommendations made by the scrutiny committees are also available. The next section in this report highlights where scrutiny has successfully had a positive impact.

Once the work programmes have been confirmed we will regularly update the webpages about the work underway and forthcoming work and welcome your involvement.

You can email: scrutiny.works@rotherham.gov.uk or telephone 01709 822776

Alternatively you can write to us:-

Scrutiny Services
Rotherham MBC
Town Hall, The Crofts
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham S60 2TH

Public engagement during 2016-17

- ◆ ILSC valued hearing directly from local people about their experiences of using Early Help and Special Educational Needs and Disability services. Chair Cllr Clark enthused: *“Meeting with service users opens up a different level of scrutiny and helps to see the end results.”*
- ◆ On HSC the co-optees frequently identify where improvements could be made in communicating effectively with patients or service users. Follow up discussions between Speak Up and the Clinical Commissioning Group on the access to GPs workstream resulted from one HSC meeting.
- ◆ RotherFed regularly update IPSC on tenant involvement and also undertook a specific tenant scrutiny review focusing on engagement with young people. A young tenant and a representative from Rush House were involved in presenting the findings of the review to the commission.

Select Commissions have continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers and co-opted committee members. Scrutiny Members appreciated their input in reviews and discussions and would like to extend thanks to the co-optees that have served on the Commissions in 2016-17.

Health

Victoria Farnsworth and Robert Parkin, Speakup

Improving Lives

Joanna Jones, Voluntary Sector

Mark Smith, Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Consortium

Improving Places

Patrick Cahill and Lilian Shears, RotherFed

Brian Walker, Individual

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Although this has only been in place since July 2016, the timescale for seeing positive outcomes is swift as any recommendations made by OSMB are usually for papers at the following Cabinet and Commissioners' decision making meeting. The Board made successful recommendations with regard to a number of policy decisions during the year, as shown below. In addition, OSMB has requested various follow up reports in 2017-18 (either to OSMB or the relevant Select Commission) to monitor progress on policy implementation, or to scrutinise the actual impact of policy changes for local people. These include the Financial Inclusion Plan for Rotherham Council Tenants; new model of Neighbourhood Working; Regional Adoption Agency; Learning Disability Offer; and Budget Consultation Process 2018-19.

Day Care and Transport charges

- ◆ An update report on access to and usage of Day Care for the Cabinet and Commissioners' meeting in July 2017, to monitor the impact of the first increase in charges prior to the proposed further increase in October 2017.

Corporate Safeguarding Policy

- ◆ Political groups of the Council were instructed to mandate their members to undertake relevant training on safeguarding matters.

Outcome of the consultation on the proposal for a planned closure of 'Silverwood' and 'Cherry Tree House' Children's Residential Care Homes

- ◆ Service proposals to include provision for emergency placements for vulnerable children and young people, including the provision of 'crash pads'.
- ◆ To carry out a service review to ensure that, appropriate to their individual care needs, vulnerable children and young people have foster placements within the borough or no more than twenty miles from the borough area boundary.

Outcome of consultation on proposed Foster Carers Payments Scheme, Support and Development

- ◆ Monitoring the recruitment of additional foster carers, to ensure targets are being achieved.
- ◆ To explore the possible use of a Council Tax reduction or discount as an additional benefit for foster carers registered with this Council.
- ◆ To examine whether the proposed payment of fees and allowances to individual foster carers may have a detrimental impact upon their receipt of other state benefits.

Capital Programme - Operational Property Investment Programme 2016/17 to 2020/21

- ◆ Further detail in the Asset Strategy on the ongoing maintenance schedule for land and buildings owned by the Council.

Review of Neighbourhood Working

- ◆ Training to be arranged and delivered for Ward Councillors on developing Ward Plans.
- ◆ Development of an overall strategy for Neighbourhood Working.

Review of Petitions Scheme

- ◆ Petitions with 600 signatures will be referred to OSMB for review or investigation with lead petitioners given 15 minutes to present the petition to the meeting.
- ◆ Where appropriate petitions will be logged corporately as complaints.

Asset Management Policy and Strategy

- ◆ Follow up report to OSMB showing the linkages between the asset management strategy and policy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Relocation of Intermediate Care provision at Netherfield Court

- ◆ Relevant staff trained to the required standard before implementation and a full skills audit undertaken.
- ◆ Future service change proposals be subject to consultation with professional bodies, the local Healthwatch and client users.

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 2016

As a result of the takeover challenge, Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) worked with Public Health to devise a question for the Invitation to Tender for the new 0-19 health services contract: *"How will you raise the profile, increase the awareness and accessibility, and ensure effective two-way communication between young people and the school nursing service?"* They then scored the responses from the prospective providers in a workshop session with Public Health, following an explanation on the tendering and moderation process. The young people were positive about the experience and gained an insight into how services are commissioned.

Access to GPs

Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) integrated the recommendations from a detailed scrutiny review within its Interim GP strategy/Rotherham response to *GP Forward View*. One outcome is that the CCG reviews medical capacity in the GP practices surrounding an area where new housing developments are proposed at an earlier stage, to ensure increased demand can be met. For example at the Waverley development, subject to planning, building a new health centre is due to commence in September, but in the interim an improvement project has been instigated at Treeton Medical Centre to increase capacity. It was also recommended that GPs should adopt a more flexible approach to appointments and one recent pilot initiative has been three GP "hubs" opening on Saturdays for routine appointments.

Waste Management

Following a recommendation from IPSC, a partnership has been established between FCC Environment (Household Waste Recycling Operator), Advantage Waste Brokers and the social enterprise Refurnish to deliver a re-use project. Under this scheme people can donate their old bicycles and small domestic electrical appliances to be used again. Other recommendations made by the task and finish group are being incorporated in the service development plans of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

This joint review by HSC and ILSC focused on identifying barriers that impact on access to CAMHS from Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH). Members had recommended that RDaSH prioritise the roll out of locality working to schools and community settings; and that training with partners/schools should focus on improving the quality of referrals to reduce delays. Work last year encompassed refreshing the guidance for referring C&YP to the appropriate service; training sessions, including for Early Help staff, school nurses and Special Educational Needs Coordinators; and distributing information packs to schools, with referral information and details of the support that schools would receive from their respective locality workers. Closer working between RDaSH CAMHS and Early Help Services has reduced the number of referrals being inappropriately signposted between the services.

Housing Allocations Policy Amendment

A programme of pre-tenancy workshops for prospective council housing new tenants with either no prior experience of managing a tenancy, or who have had a failed tenancy, should improve tenancy sustainment levels, particularly for vulnerable young people. These workshops will be developed with the help of young people, RotherFed and Members of IPSC and reflect the links between the Tenant Involvement Strategy and work by RotherFed to engage young tenants. In addition to their input in developing the workshops Scrutiny Members will also be involved in reporting on their effectiveness.

Adult Safeguarding Annual Report

As a result of considering the annual report, ILSC requested that Cllr Clark write to the Chief Executive to ask that she ensures that performance and audit information continues to be provided to the Adult Safeguarding Board on a timely and consistent basis. The Chief Executive outlined what action had been taken in response to this request and committed to updating the Commission should there be further cause for concern in the future.

"The whole process promotes openness and transparency, but really it's all about asking the 'right' questions about the 'right' things. When we do this, I think we make people think." Cllr Albiston

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

OSMB's remit is as follows:

- Leading on pre-decision scrutiny
- Monitoring the Council's budget, medium term financial strategy and achievement of efficiencies
- Designated Crime and Disorder Committee
- Scrutinising the annual budget setting process
- Monitoring and holding to account the performance of service delivery
- Call-in and Councillor Call for Action
- Assigning overview and scrutiny work as appropriate to the Select Commissions

Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-16 - 2019-2020 (MTFS)

With the continuing financial challenges facing the Council, the work of OSMB had a strong focus on the continuing development of the MTFS and the budget proposals for the coming year, in addition to requesting regular reports to monitor financial performance in year. The Board noted that the outline MTFS approved in March 2016 had been updated to include the period to 2020 and to reflect changes in the design of the local government finance system. It also incorporated additional known budget pressures in order to identify an updated funding gap of around £42m to 2019/20 (£24m in 2017-18), that would need to be addressed.

A number of projects were reviewing areas across the council to seek value for money, not only efficiencies through cross-cutting projects and procurement, but analysing how the Council could generate further income without having to make additional savings. Members sought assurances in respect of monitoring commissioned services and savings achieved through that approach. They also enquired how services would be reshaped and delivered and it was confirmed that all options would be examined and that the digital agenda required further development.

In the autumn OSMB closely scrutinised the savings proposals for 2017-18, which had been developed in accordance with clear budget principles. They also considered the proposed strategic framework for 2018-19 onwards that would make sure individual savings proposals, or those proposed for each directorate, would not be considered in isolation, but rather with regard to alignment to the Corporate Plan and MTFS.

Members questioned Executive Members and senior managers in depth, seeking clarification on various issues, particularly with regard to what were statutory/non-statutory services, and requesting further details on specific proposals. One of their main areas of concern related to the review and redesign of Housing Related Support Contracts as this included some very vulnerable people. The aim was to co-produce a new service offer with existing service providers, users of all services and stakeholders.

The review of Transport Assistance Policies and Usage in CYPS also prompted detailed probing from the Board. This seeks to reduce reliance on costly transport provision which currently fosters dependency, to a model which promotes independence and offers a quality of service which safeguards children and young people to the standards expected. The CYPS business support review and plans to review commissioned services which support children and young people were discussed at length.

OSMB identified a number of areas for further work, either by officers or the Scrutiny Committees:

- ◆ an evaluation of the service proposals in the Revenues, Benefits and Payments service was asked for after six months to ascertain how this was affecting the most vulnerable
- ◆ a detailed follow up report on the review of Housing Related Support Contracts was discussed at a later meeting, showing how it was intended to consult with user groups and who the budget proposal would affect, with a further update on the review requested in six months
- ◆ take up of the pest control service should be monitored following the increase to charges
- ◆ OSMB to receive a report in six months on the newly formed Rotherham Construction Partnership
- ◆ HSC to monitor the review of Adult Social Care community packages

OSMB accepted the revenue budget savings proposals and agreed they be referred to the Cabinet and Commissioners for further consideration. Feedback from scrutiny, together with the outcomes of public consultation, informed the final decisions for the 2017-18 budget agreed by Full Council in March 2017.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 2017

"The day was a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into how a formal meeting in the Council Chamber is carried out. It was empowering to know that so many Elected Members were passionate about helping us achieve our aims, which I think is extremely important."
(Tom Jackson, RYC)

In this national scheme children and young people take over an organisation or a meeting and assume management or leadership roles. OSMB once again showed its commitment to this initiative by supporting RYC in a spotlight session in February. The young people undertook their own planning and preparation beforehand, supported by two OSMB members and the scrutiny team.

RYC decided on public transport as the theme as it was one of the five priorities in their manifesto. They launched their report "Get in Gear: Accessibility of Public Transport for Young People" in October 2016, triggering an approach from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) about forming a new South Yorkshire Youth Transport User Group. The young people used the takeover challenge to explore how the recommendations in their report might be progressed, leading an in-depth question and answer session, involving the Cabinet Member, SYPTe and representatives from local bus, tram and rail operators.

As a number of the questions related to subsidised/free travel one immediate outcome was a firm commitment to hold a session for the Youth User Group on how budgets were decided at the SYPTe, how young people could influence them and how to improve advertising and promotion of the offer. Transport operators highlighted areas where ideas and input from RYC would be welcome, including at training sessions and with advertising and promoting tickets and timetable changes.

In May 2017 SYPTe announced the introduction of a new South Yorkshire-wide 16-18 travel pass available to all young people in that age group. The new passes last two years and may be used during the August school holidays. This is a great outcome for RYC as these issues featured in their recommendations.

Clr Mallinder praised the young people: *"I think it was a very professional performance. It makes you feel that the future is in good hands."*

Implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA)

The Government views regionalising adoption as a key strategy to meet its aims of adoption reform, with all councils required to become part of a RAA. This is intended to speed up the process for children by ensuring authorities pool their resources for assessing prospective adopters and matching children to placements.

A paper outlining proposals for the RAA was referred directly to OSMB by Commissioner Bradwell in September 2016 for pre-decision scrutiny. This report recommended that RMBC build on the existing regional consortium framework to explore the potential to establish a RAA for South Yorkshire, comprising the four South Yorkshire local authorities and Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST). The preferred option was the favoured approach across South Yorkshire by consensus, as it would have the least impact on employees and had the least negative impact on Rotherham and the other local authorities.

Members raised concerns in respect of the proposal for the DCST to be the host body given the historical failings of Children's Services in Doncaster. They also questioned whether having both DCST and DMBC on the management board could mean they would be able to exert undue influence over future service delivery models. Assurance was given that children in Rotherham would be central to the process of developing the RAA and that any aspects of the project that were identified as a potential risk to positive outcomes for those children would be strenuously opposed.

Whilst broadly supportive of the direction of travel outlined, OSMB expressed further concerns regarding governance of the RAA and recommended that robust terms of reference and appropriate arrangements for Member oversight were necessary prior to any decision regarding implementation. Following this recommendation Commissioner Bradwell agreed that Improving Lives would receive a further report on the proposed implementation once the full business case had been developed.

For other examples and outcomes of pre-decision scrutiny - see page 7.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Revenue Budget Monitoring - CYPS

The main financial pressures in CYPS continued to be the budgets for Looked After Children (LAC) and staffing, and also the High Needs block in the Dedicated Needs Grant. The current LAC budget would support approximately 400 placements but there were 488 as at 31 December 2016. The pressure on the staffing budget was due to the need to engage agency social workers and team managers with the experience to reverse poor performance, fill vacancies and reduce average caseloads. Members probed more deeply into these issues and the underlying causes. They requested and then scrutinised a further report on the profile of LAC and those coming through the care system, plus a breakdown relating to placements. It was agreed ILSC would continue to monitor progress for LAC and to receive progress updates on the feasibility study and performance in due course.

At the February meeting OSMB considered the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2017-2021. This sets out how Rotherham Children's Services will fulfil its role as a Corporate Parent and meet its statutory sufficiency duty by providing good quality care, effective parenting and support to children and young people in and leaving our care. This paper was also considered by ILSC who requested a follow up report in six months providing information on the budget monitoring for this service.

Revenue Budget Monitoring - Adult Social Care

Increased demand for services mainly in respect of direct payments, domiciliary care and residential care across all client groups was the primary source of budget pressures. Clarification was sought on several areas and Members then scheduled follow up reports specifically on Older People and on Physical and Sensory Disability for more in-depth scrutiny.

Our wider work

Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP)

Members listened to a presentation outlining the six SRP priority areas and asked questions on the statistics regarding offences and about public perceptions of crime and safety. The retention of PCSO numbers in Rotherham was welcomed but Members reiterated their previous concerns about the 101 non-emergency service. Poor performance was acknowledged and a strategic plan and staff training had been put in place to address this. The SRP was asked for ward-based statistics in future reports and for an update on 101 Non-Emergency Services, child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and so called honour based marriage, addressing some of the issues on data and referrals discussed in the meeting.

Employee Pulse Survey and Other Employee Feedback

Summarised findings from the Pulse survey and focus groups and subsequent staff briefing sessions were presented to the Board. Members noted management actions taken to address the themes and ideas raised by employees and that there would be a full Employee Opinion Survey in 2017. OSMB suggested some amendments to the action plans, including more specific timescales, and also suggested adopting more of a strength and asset based approach with staff.

Corporate Plan 2016-17 Performance Reports

The Corporate Plan is the core document that underpins the Council's overall vision, setting out headline priorities, indicators and measures that will demonstrate its delivery. Alongside the plan is a performance report and scorecard with an analysis of performance against 14 key delivery outcomes and 102 measures, plus an overview of progress on key projects and activities.

OSMB commented on the report format and stressed the need to see changes in performance from one quarter to the next and greater clarity on which indicators were improving and which were off target. They discussed measures that were not on track and verified what action would be taken if performance did not improve. Members asked about sickness absence and noting the plans to address this through the Health and Safety Panel requested an update in December. They also plan follow up work on agency spending.

For further information contact:

James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01709 822477 or
email james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

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Health Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- being the council's designated scrutiny body for any health issue relating to health and public health
- partnerships and commissioning arrangements for health and well-being and their governance
- scrutinising the integration of health and social care services and budgets
- health improvements and the promotion of wellbeing for adults and children of Rotherham
- measures to address health inequality
- food law and environmental health
- issues referred from Healthwatch

Learning Disability Offer

As part of the wider Adult Care Development programme the Council is implementing a strategic approach to commissioning and delivery of services for people with learning disabilities through a market position statement. The overarching intention is to support people to be more independent and to fulfil their potential through a greater choice of services.

Following a request from the Leader, a cross-party sub-group held a workshop session to develop a clear understanding of what the Learning Disability Offer should be in order to deliver desired outcomes for Rotherham people.

Members increased their awareness of the legislative, demographic and financial drivers for change and of how Rotherham benchmarks against similar comparator and neighbouring authorities. They heard in detail about the current learning disability offer in Rotherham and explored how a revised offer would deliver better outcomes and improve quality of life. The session provided the sub-group with a good knowledge base to inform discussion on proposals as they evolve following public consultation and to enable effective future scrutiny of the offer. Members requested regular updates to HSC, including a progress report on implementing the Carers Strategy as this would also be a key element in service change.

Schools Mental Health Pilot

One of the actions being implemented following the scrutiny review of CAMHS is a pilot initiative in six local schools to take a whole school approach to promoting mental health and wellbeing, based on eight principles outlined in national guidance produced by Public Health England and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Consortium. Each school benchmarked themselves against the principles and selected two or three priorities to focus on in an Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Plan.

Mental health is a recurrent theme in the HSC's work programme and the Commission was keen to learn more about the pilot and what each school was working on. Six Members volunteered to accompany officers on a progress update meeting, one for each school, and Cllr Cusworth attended meetings of the Whole School Steering Group to have a good overview. Full evaluation of the pilot will take place in July 2017.

Good progress in all the schools was reported back and the Members who had undertaken the visits were impressed by the work carried out and the commitment shown by staff. As it is important to ensure the schools are able to sustain their progress once the pilot has ended, with the wider learning shared with other schools, HSC will be scrutinising the evaluation and future plans as part of its work programme in 2017-18.

Older People's Housing

One important aspect of HSC's work programme is scrutiny of transformation and integration of health and adult care services. Members also wished to include older people's housing, given the close links between housing, adult social care and health in terms of maintaining people's independence and enabling people to live in their own home with the right care and support in place.

A cross-party task and finish group undertook a spotlight session regarding increasing the number of homes suitable for older people in the borough. Consultation and the strategic housing market assessment indicated insufficient specialist housing for older people, with a growing waiting list for extra care housing. HSC members discussed the key issues involved in the planning and delivery of housing for older people and the factors that older people prioritised as important.

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Health Select Commission

Ten recommendations resulted from the spotlight session, mainly focused on consultation; ensuring quality and security in older people's housing; and communication and marketing. These were all accepted by Adult Social Care and Housing, have been taken into account in drafting their detailed plans and will continue to be reflected in consultation plans and future proposals/reports to Cabinet.

Adult Social Care Performance (ASC)

"HSC worked closely with officers to determine and refine requirements for performance reporting, resulting in more accountability and transparency on the impact of the evolving new ASC model." - Cllr Sansome

In view of the demographic and financial pressures on adult social care, coupled with the work to transform both health and care services, HSC members wished to have a good understanding of current performance on key measures as a baseline in order to scrutinise the impact of the ASC development programme over time. 2015-16 was a transitional year with the directorate seeking to change the existing customer journey and business processes in order to improve the customer experience and deliver better outcomes.

The Commission considered both the provisional performance report on the national Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) and later in the year the final report with benchmarking data for Yorkshire and Humber and nationally. This provided a good synopsis of performance and in particular where improvements were being made and which measures remained a challenge. 19 of the 22 ASCOF measures showed an improvement and the benchmarking enabled Rotherham to measure any change in its relative position with other local authorities. To complete the picture HSC interrogated the data in progress reports on the local measures and targets for 2016-17 plus a summary of complaints regarding ASC.

Members questioned how the data collected was used to improve services, how the complaints process operated and how the annual user surveys were undertaken. It was agreed to have regular updates on the local measures for reviews carried out, support packages provided and waiting times for assessments and care packages as these measures were not on target, in part due to the preparatory work for moving to the Liquid Logic system.

Rotherham's Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan (RPP)

In September HSC discussed a presentation from the CCG introducing and setting the context for the new Rotherham Place Plan that was being developed in partnership by health and social care partners. The RPP forms part of the wider South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). Five priorities for the plan, which were examined in detail, are:

- ◆ Prevention, self-management, education and early intervention
- ◆ Rolling out our integrated locality model – 'The Village' pilot
- ◆ Opening an integrated Urgent and Emergency Care Centre
- ◆ Further development of a 24/7 Care Co-ordination Centre
- ◆ Building a Specialist Re-ablement Centre

Enablers for the new approaches, such as better use of public buildings, technology and improved data sharing; expected benefits and required investment for the plan, and a high level implementation plan with key milestones were also covered.

Members fed back a number of issues to the officers working on the plan, particularly around the following:

- ◆ Use of language and being very clear with the public about what was happening and explaining what was really meant by the efficiency challenge and whether that equated to cuts or managing growth in demand.
- ◆ For the plan to be realistic in what could be achieved, distinguishing between planned work that would happen and what was more aspirational or to be taken forward through drawing down additional funding.
- ◆ Concerns about reaching those who were less engaged but most in need of services i.e. addressing health inequalities.
- ◆ Getting the care homes on board to support transformation, plus reassurance on the level of care provided would be critical for patients and family members for the project to upskill staff in care homes.
- ◆ Reassurance for the public that the A&E times would be feasible and not overly raising expectations.

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Health Select Commission

Following on from the RPP presentation the Commission received several progress updates on aspects of the health and social care transformation and integration work:

- ◆ Presentation and briefing on the wider STP
- ◆ Update on the ASC development programme and Better Care Fund initiatives
- ◆ Presentation on Acute and Community Transformation by Rotherham Hospital

This theme will continue to be central to the work programme in 2017-18, commencing with an evaluation paper on The Village integrated locality pilot.

Our wider work

NHS Commissioners Working Together Programme (CWTP)

This programme focuses on collaborative work across the health service to consider how to improve the health of communities and health services across seven local authorities. There are several workstreams, with options for proposed changes to hyper acute stroke care (first 72 hours after a stroke) and children's surgery and anaesthesia consulted on during 2016-17. A mandatory joint health overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) was established as the service proposals affect more than one local authority. Cllr Sansome represented RMBC on the joint body, feeding back from the JHOSC in order to involve and update the full commission and raising issues at the JHOSC on behalf of HSC.

The HSC had the CWTP as a standard agenda item and also held two workshop sessions, firstly to comment on the draft public consultation materials and engagement plan; and secondly to discuss the report with the overall consultation outcomes before it was presented to the JHOSC. Members had also requested information from Rotherham Hospital on stroke care and the Chair and Vice Chair met with Yorkshire Ambulance Service to discuss stroke care and service capacity, which also fed into their consultation responses for both proposals. The final decision on the proposals will be taken by the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups this summer.

“Starting and Growing Well” - Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015-16

Members discussed the report at length and probed into specific work areas including engagement with schools, ways of improving breastfeeding rates, local work on pornography and its damaging impact on young people, take up of free school meals, oral health and mental health. They developed a clear understanding of the key issues, inequalities and challenges regarding children and young people's health in Rotherham. HSC supported the eight far-reaching recommendations and made a number of suggestions that fed into the action plan. They also requested and received additional information on a number of issues. A further recommendation was that the Council should lobby the Government regarding mandatory PHSEe/sex and relationships education.

Scrutiny Review - RDaSH CAMHS

HSC considered an initial monitoring report on the implementation of the scrutiny review recommendations in October. As the service reconfiguration at RDaSH and staff recruitment had taken longer to complete than originally envisaged, this had impacted on progress on several of the recommendations. Revised and realistic timescales were agreed for the actions and a further report was discussed in March.

The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Needs analysis was now complete and had shown a need for improved links between CAMHS and SEND. A common performance framework across the whole mental health system had been developed and was being tested with service providers. This captured numbers of contacts, caseloads and referrals, plus waiting times and interventions.

Members noted the progress made since October and requested that the next update focus on waiting time data, performance management information, impact of the single point of access and locality working, training and development across the wider CAMHS workforce, and transition from CAMHS.

For further information contact:

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Improving Lives Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- the implementation of Rotherham's plans to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- the Every Child Matters agenda (for every child to be safe, healthy, enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being)
- the early intervention and prevention agendas
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people

Alternative Management Arrangements for Children's Services

The Government policy document "*Putting Children First – delivering our vision for excellent children's social care*" (July 2016) sets out a challenge to all councils to think about how they can make and sustain improvements across children's services. In light of this, and following a request by Commissioners, ILSC was asked by the Leader and Chief Executive to undertake this work through an in-depth scrutiny review.

A small cross-party group of Members, chaired by Cllr Maggi Clark, examined how improvements have been made in children's services elsewhere and how these may be applied to secure the long-term success of Rotherham's Children's and Young People's Services (CYPS).

By means of visits or teleconferences, the review group directly engaged with five other local authorities, including some that operate or were considering alternative management arrangements such as a trust or arms-length company. There was a high-level sector challenge through a visit to the Local Government Association's Children's Improvement Board and participation in a facilitated workshop, using an independent research-based methodology, to enable an objective assessment of the improvements in CYPS to date.

The review examined the potential for CYPS to collaborate on a sub-regional and regional basis, and different ways to commission services. Members also considered evidence from external peer reviews, practice partner feedback, Commissioner reports, and Ofsted monitoring visits in order to validate and provide assurance of the progress and improvements made in Rotherham's children's services.

The review is currently coming to conclusion and will report to the Improving Lives Commission and will be shared with the Department for Education.

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB) - Annual Report 2015-2016

Each year RLSCB is required to publish an annual report on the performance and effectiveness of services for safeguarding children. ILSC explored a number of key lines of inquiry on the report, focusing on:

- educational initiatives in secondary schools to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation
- addressing young people's concerns about personal safety in Rotherham town centre
- identifying young girls at risk of female genital mutilation
- voice and influence of young people in safeguarding
- how weaknesses identified by Ofsted in 2014 had been tackled
- impact of Early Help
- numbers of Looked After Children and available placements

Members sought clarification on certain definitions in the report and requested further statistical information, including comparator data with other local authorities. They also requested details of the sufficiency strategy regarding emergency accommodation for vulnerable children and children missing from home, and information about any unregistered schools in the Rotherham Borough area. Officers confirmed they would update the Commission on the outcome and impact of the audits and case reviews referred to in the report.

Two specific recommendations were made to the LSCB to request that:

- appropriate questions be added to future Lifestyle Surveys on harassment of female pupils in schools.
- the Corporate Parenting Panel to undertake a review of Looked After Children's health assessments in order to improve both the regularity of provision and the attendance rate by children and young people.

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Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - Post Abuse Services Update

Scrutiny of partnership plans and services to tackle CSE in Rotherham was the overarching priority in the work programme of ILSC during 2015-16. After an initial update and overview of the plans, ILSC scrutinised particular aspects of the work in detail during subsequent meetings. The focus was on the new CSE strategy *Child Sexual Exploitation - The Way Forward for Rotherham 2015-18; Tackling CSE - Delivery Plan*; Rotherham CSE Needs Analysis; and progress on three specific workstreams - Voice and influence impact, Work in Rotherham schools and the Prevent workstream of the CSE strategy.

As a follow up, in November 2016, ILSC received a full report and presentation on the progress of the CSE post-abuse support services established since the publication of the Jay Report. Significant investment in developing and commissioning CSE support services by both RMBC and NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group has resulted in a comprehensive range of services to support victims and survivors. These include practical, emotional support and advocacy; and also evidence based therapeutic interventions. Members gained a good understanding of the services and support offered by each provider, including outreach work in schools and localities and support for vulnerable young people.

Members' questions also focused on evaluation and evidence to confirm that the services offered were making a difference. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the commissioned services would be evidenced for activity through monthly reports submitted to the three commissioning managers, plus visits and spot checks, which had commenced towards the end of 2016. Services are required to include voice and influence elements in their support, monitored alongside the other outcome monitoring arrangements.

ILSC requested case studies and data to supplement the monitoring process as part of future performance reporting, with further evidence of outcomes. It was agreed updates on any areas for improvement of the commissioned services would be reported back to ILSC, with a further progress report in summer 2017.

Domestic Abuse

In September ILSC discussed a presentation outlining the proposed inspection framework for children living with domestic abuse. This led to the inclusion of the following in the work programme:

- ◆ a targeted review of support services to ascertain whether the levels of funding and other resources were sufficient to meet local needs in the borough
- ◆ exploring effective means of gathering evidence about the perpetrators of domestic violence, including evidence of the use of coercive behaviour within the borough
- ◆ a comparison with and study of the Doncaster MBC model of service provision, which has been validated by the Government and is the subject of independent audit and evaluation (to follow review)

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) was requested to carry out an initial health check of current domestic abuse service provision, especially methods of identifying perpetrators of domestic abuse, and to report back. In December 2016 Members scrutinised a detailed report and presentation from the SRP on domestic and sexual abuse provision in Rotherham. Their questions focused on current services; funding; commissioning; agencies working together strategically and operationally; how the effectiveness of services is evaluated; work with perpetrators; and how Rotherham's provision compares with statistical neighbours.

It was recognised that although progress had been made further work was needed and the SRP's new plan identified domestic abuse as one of its key priorities, together with community cohesion and hate crime. At its meeting on 5 December 2016, SRP Board had reviewed domestic and sexual abuse and recommended:

- ◆ a full review and refresh of the SRP Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2013/17
- ◆ that an action plan is developed to underpin the partnership delivery of the refreshed strategy
- ◆ reconvening the SRP multi-agency domestic and sexual abuse priority group
- ◆ commissioning an independent peer review of the SRP's domestic and sexual abuse offer

The Commission supported the recommendations made by the SRP Board and were appreciative that the discussion from the ILSC meeting would help to inform the strategy refresh. Members made additional recommendations and requested a further progress report in six months. Their recommendations were:

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Improving Lives Select Commission

- To reconsider the recommendations from the previous 2013 scrutiny review In light of the discussion.
- To undertake a cost benefit analysis of the Perpetrator Programme and use this to inform future commissioning of services.
- That the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children's Boards are involved in the development of the strategy and pathways.
- That domestic abuse is included in the future refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Our wider work

Child-Centred Borough and the Rotherham Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey

"Every child making the best start in life" is one of Rotherham's four priorities and supporting this is the aspiration for Rotherham to become a 'Child-Centred Borough'. The Commission learned that a key factor would be considering and acting upon the findings of the Rotherham Voice of the Child Lifestyle Survey. The 2015 survey would be the baseline, with future surveys used to track progress. Subsequently, ILSC also scrutinised the 2016 survey and three year trend data at its February meeting.

Members posed questions with regard to the survey findings on issues such as mental health, contraceptive use, young carers and young people having a voice. The Commission unanimously supported the ambition to become a Child-Centred Borough and recommended exploring the exemplar Child-Centred Borough approach in Leeds in more detail and to consider how it could be adapted to work in Rotherham. This was included in the work of the review group considering alternative management arrangements for children's services, who will be making recommendations about information sharing and Member engagement.

Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) - the improvement journey and performance

The Strategic Director delivered a comprehensive overview of the key themes in the improvement journey, highlighting progress but recognising there was still more to do. Members probed a number of areas with regard to placements, referrals, staff supervision and child protection plans. It was agreed ILSC would keep a watching brief on the number of Rotherham children and young people sent to out-of-authority provision.

Linking in with this, the Commission scrutinised performance reports during the year - the CYPS Year End Performance Report 2015-16 and a summary of performance under key themes for Children's Social Care and Early Help Services (as at January 2017). Due to concerns over exclusions and persistent absence ILSC wish to look at this issue in greater depth in 2017-18.

Members also heard a presentation providing an overview of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) at the same meeting, prompting them to request SEND performance data in future reports for a fuller picture. They noted the strengths and areas for development in the SEND service and explored provision in schools, including capacity to meet increased future demand. A sufficiency strategy is being produced and ILSC asked for this to be submitted to a future meeting.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) 2015-16 Annual Report

The annual report set out the achievements, contributions from partners, key facts and figures and priorities for 2016-18. Members sought clarification on several points and noted the work to improve the provision of performance and audit information to support the work of the RSAB, which they wish to see continue. ILSC supported the suggestion to have a representative from the independent care sector on the Board.

Early Help and Family Engagement

ILSC considered a report outlining priorities, current performance and progress against the budget savings proposals for 2016 - 2017. Key issues discussed were developing relationships with partners, auditing case files for quality assurance and the effectiveness of the referral process. Members requested more detail on the exit surveys completed by service users and a further progress report in 12 months.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2017 – 2021 - see OSMB

For further information contact:

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Improving Places Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB related to:

- Housing and Neighbourhood strategies
- Economic development and regeneration strategies
- Environment and sustainable development strategies
- Community cohesion and social inclusion
- Tourism, culture and leisure

Emergency Planning

A shared service has been in place since June 2011 to oversee the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity functions of both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils and to deliver a joint resilience service to both councils. As there have been significant personnel changes recently within RMBC, and the last major update of the Emergency Plan was in 2012/13, IPSC prioritised this issue in their work programme due to the importance of having appropriate arrangements in place.

Members decided to focus on testing the resilience of the Emergency Plan, ultimately through a simulated emergency exercise, with a full evaluation afterwards. Of particular interest were the governance arrangements, systems in directorates, and arrangements between the Council and external agencies such as the police, Fire and Rescue, NHS and Yorkshire Water.

The desired outcomes for the review were:

- ◆ an improved Emergency Plan
- ◆ ensuring adequate resources to meet any potential major incident which could happen
- ◆ confirming that the governance structure in place is robust, effective and efficient

A full scrutiny review was carried out with evidence from various services across the Council. Three task and finish group members observed at first hand an Emergency Planning table-top, simulation exercise. The review group also visited the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit, where a shared service arrangement involving four local authorities is in place. Members considered the emergency planning operations in Cleveland and participated in a workshop on community resilience and community involvement.

At the time of writing the annual report recommendations from the review were being finalised before going through the approval process. This work will inform the refresh of the Emergency Plan currently underway.

Dignity plc - bereavement services

RMBC entered into a 35-year contract with Dignity plc in 2008 for the management of bereavement services across the Borough. Dignity assumed responsibility for capital works and maintenance of East Herringthorpe Cemetery and Crematorium, along with maintenance of the eight other municipal cemeteries. The Council retained responsibility for certain aspects of the service, such as cemetery chapels, associated buildings and boundary walls on some cemetery sites. Glendale Countryside Management Ltd. is sub-contracted by Dignity for grounds maintenance.

Investigations had revealed that there had been “under-management” of the contract by the Council and a lack of democratic oversight. Members had a number of concerns on issues such as grass cutting and general grounds maintenance, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour, Muslim burial times, burials into lined graves, footpaths and roadways within the cemeteries, and the costs of burials and memorials. They also wished to explore the flexibility of the contract, in terms of potential for any renegotiation on certain aspects.

IPSC received a detailed presentation regarding the Council’s contract with Dignity plc, facilitating a better understanding of the nature of the contract and dispelling some of the negative stories in circulation. They requested additional evidence - a copy of Dignity’s annual report, information about fee setting and an analysis of complaints about the service. Members visited Rotherham Crematorium and held a site meeting at Maltby Cemetery, where they met with representatives from Dignity, Glendale Countryside Management, and Maltby Town Council to gain a better understanding of the issues.

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The service appears to be generally well received by members of the public, with only a very small number of complaints requiring the Council to act as an intermediary, as the vast majority are resolved by Dignity to the satisfaction of the customer. Members recognised the significant investment made by Dignity in undertaking the various improvements required as part of the contract, including to the chapel and reception facilities at East Herringthorpe, development of the cemetery grounds and improved security. In addition to the issues raised above, IPSC considered the costs to the Council of maintaining the chapels and whether it would be feasible to set up “friends groups”. The benefit of establishing a Bereavement Services Forum involving the local authority, Dignity, funeral directors and local faith communities was also discussed.

This workstream will continue in 2017-18 as the Commission has requested a future progress report on the service to include information on:

- ◆ performance of Glendale Countryside Management regarding grounds maintenance at Maltby cemetery
- ◆ options available for the provision of memorial benches within cemeteries (including a pricing structure)
- ◆ fees and charges for the cemeteries and crematorium service, plus benchmarking data with other LAs
- ◆ further consideration of the opening hours and the hours available for burials (including requirements in respect of Muslim burials)
- ◆ an update in respect of the availability of land for a possible extension to Maltby cemetery
- ◆ improvements to footpaths and roadways within cemeteries

Rotherham’s Housing Strategy 2016-19

In September IPSC considered a presentation and the first progress report on the commitments in the new Housing Strategy that was approved in February 2016. HSC members were also invited to attend by the Chair as older people’s housing would feature in their work programme later in the year (see page 12). Detailed discussions took place on the work under each of the five core themes – housing growth, social housing, private rented sector, affordable home ownership, and specialist housing.

Members asked questions about the quality of housing stock and were concerned that the position regarding repairs and maintenance appeared to have deteriorated. Although the quarter 1 outturn for “repairs right first time” was just below target it was still top quartile performance and the service was confident the year end target would be achieved. Significant funding was in the Decent Homes budget to ensure homes were brought back into decency in-year and the target would be met. Asset Management and Investment plans were in place to improve stock, with good progress on external wall insulation and properties targeted that lacked cavity wall insulation or were fuel poor. It was noted that many performance measures were annual indicators that would not be available until after the year end.

Assurance was sought about Right to Buy fraud and officers confirmed there were low levels in Rotherham. Credit checks and face-to-face meetings were being instigated and although not precluding children from purchasing the property for their parents, the Council needed to understand the source of the money.

Officers circulated additional information after the meeting as requested with regard to the definition of people with complex needs; the prioritisation banding system under the Housing Allocation Policy based on needs, and support available for vulnerable housing applicants, including help to bid for properties. They also provided details of the number of people classed as homeless and an indication of numbers of people with different specialist needs on the housing register at that time.

Linking in with the private rented sector core theme of the Housing Strategy, the Commission scrutinised a report on the review of Selective Licensing at its April meeting and will revisit this in 2017-18.

Housing Allocations Policy Review

IPSC discussed a report outlining proposed amendments to the policy, which aim to increase housing tenancy sustainability and reduce expenditure. The proposals took into account lessons learned, changes brought about by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and the future Homelessness Reduction Bill. The proposals included mandatory pre-tenancy workshops and support for housing applicants without prior experience of running their own home, or where a previous tenancy has failed, and housing options interviews before people join the housing register.

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Improving Places Select Commission

Following debate and clarification on a number of issues Members supported the amendments. They requested a progress report during 2017, once the changes had been approved, including further detail on the two week allowance without payment of rent in respect of the death of existing housing tenants. They also wished to be actively involved in the workshops.

Our wider work

Rotherham Economic Growth Plan 2015 - 2025 Annual Progress Update

IPSC noted the performance monitoring information and where good progress had been made on business growth, higher numbers of residents with NVQs and reducing unemployment. Members raised a number of points regarding progress on the delivery plans for each of the seven core themes of the Growth Plan, focusing in particular on proposals for Rotherham town centre, transport and business development. They explored the implications of the plans for social inclusion, equalities and deprived communities. Details of the broadband installation and construction programme affecting the borough were requested, plus more information on the Rotherham Investment and Development Office apprenticeship scheme.

RotherFed Tenant Scrutiny - Investigation into Engaging Young Tenants in Rotherham

RMBC commissioned RotherFed to undertake two scrutiny reviews each year as part of our contract with them. Their first review considered the engagement of young tenants in Rotherham Council housing, as the 2016 STAR survey of tenants and residents showed younger tenants aged 16-34 were generally more dissatisfied with their landlord's services.

RotherFed regularly updated the other members of IPSC on this work during the year, culminating in the presentation of their final report and recommendations in April. The Adult Care and Housing directorate will work with RotherFed on an action plan to deliver against the recommendations. Members appreciated the investigation and requested a progress report on the action plan in six months.

Regeneration and Environment Performance Update April – September 2016

Members scrutinised the performance and quality of the services provided by the Directorate through its performance scorecard of 40 key indicators and learned that the majority of indicators were on target. After its work last year on the Clean and Green agenda IPSC noted the increase in household waste sent for recycling and composting, and the reduction sent to landfill. Questions were asked about enforcement, in particular regarding fly tipping and the stringent new taxi licencing policy. Members requested a breakdown of anti-social behaviour incidents (figures rather than percentages) and usage figures for individual libraries.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business Plan

The Council is required to produce a HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30 year period. IPSC discussed at length a report providing a detailed technical overview of the current position and reasons for changes to the plan due to recent Government policies that will lead to reduced HRA resources. Key policies are changes to Right to Buy, welfare reform and the introduction of Pay to Stay and mandatory fixed term tenancies. The Commission requested future updates, including the financial position as new Government regulations came into force.

At a later meeting Members discussed a presentation outlining the changes to fixed term tenancies and the impact for landlords and tenants, and on long term sustainability of communities. IPSC were asked to comment on proposals for five year fixed term tenancies in Rotherham as the norm and tenancy renewals.

Refresh of Tenancy Agreement for Rotherham's Council Housing Tenants

The tenancy agreement defines the relationship between the Council and its tenants, clarifying expectations and establishing roles and responsibilities. IPSC asked several questions around the operation of the agreement in practice. They considered the terms and conditions and suggested a small number of variations to the wording, which were included in the final version. These related to nuisance and anti-social behaviour, and animal fouling. Members also requested an update once the new agreement was in place.

For further information contact:

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Our Work Programme 2017-18

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- ◆ Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- ◆ Use of Agency and Interim Employees
- ◆ Commissioning
- ◆ Shared Services
- ◆ Approach to Commercialisation
- ◆ Revenue Budget Monitoring
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Prevent Strategy
- ◆ Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge
- ◆ Pre-decision Scrutiny

Health

- ◆ Adult Care Performance Management
- ◆ Learning Disability
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Health & Social Care Integration - Rotherham Place Plan
- ◆ Locality Working
- ◆ Mental Health - all ages
- ◆ Emergency Centre
- ◆ Carers Strategy (*possibly with ILSC*)
- ◆ Sustainability and Transformation Plan and Commissioners Working Together Programme
- ◆ NHS Trust Quality Accounts

Improving Lives

- ◆ Child Sexual Exploitation - Preventative and Post Abuse Services
- ◆ Domestic Abuse
- ◆ Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy
- ◆ Safeguarding - Children and Adults
- ◆ Looked After Children
 - Sufficiency Strategy and Budget Update
 - Apprenticeships
 - Fostering Outcomes and Stability of Placements
- ◆ Children Missing from Home/Education, Exclusions and Home Education
- ◆ Progress on Early Help Service

Improving Places

- ◆ Regeneration and Environment Performance
- ◆ Enforcement Activity and Joint Contract with Doncaster
- ◆ Dignity - Bereavement Services
- ◆ Housing Strategy
- ◆ Tenant Involvement
- ◆ Implementation of Neighbourhood Working
- ◆ Housing Revenue Account - 30 year Business Plan
- ◆ Housing - Allocations and Adaptations
- ◆ Financial Inclusion Plan - Council Tenants
- ◆ Asset Management

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Scrutiny Membership 2017-18

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis on Wednesdays at 11.00am

Cllr Brookes	Cllr Napper
Cllr Clark	Cllr Sheppard
Cllr Cusworth	Cllr Short
Cllr Evans	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Mallinder	Cllr Wyatt



Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

Vice-Chair: Cllr Allen Cowles

Contact: James McLaughlin - Tel: 01709 822477

The Board is supported by three select commissions.

Health

Chair:
Cllr Simon Evans

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Peter Short



The commission meets (usually) at 9.30am on Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Allcock	Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Williams
Cllr Andrews	Cllr Keenan	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Bird	Cllr Marriott	
Cllr R Elliott	Cllr Rushforth	Two places tbc
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Tweed	
Cllr Ireland	Cllr Whysall	

Contact: Janet Spurling - Tel: 01709 254421

Improving Lives

Chair:
Cllr Maggi Clark

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Victoria Cusworth



The commission meets (usually) at 5.30pm on Tuesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Allcock	Cllr Hague	Cllr Napper
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Pitchley
Cllr Brookes	Cllr Khan	Cllr Sansome
Cllr Cooksey	Cllr Marles	Cllr Senior
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Marriott	Cllr Short
Cllr Fenwick-Green		

Contact: Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765

Improving Places

Chair:
Cllr Jeanette Mallinder

Vice-Chair:
Cllr David Sheppard



The commission meets (usually) at 1.30pm on Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals.

Cllr Albiston	Cllr Jepson	Cllr Julie Turner
Cllr Allen	Cllr Jones	Cllr Vjestica
Cllr Atkin	Cllr McNeely	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Price	Cllr Wyatt
Cllr B Cutts	Cllr Reeder	
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Taylor	

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C h e c k , C h a l l e n g e , C h a n g e



If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please contact us:

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Slovak

Ak vy alebo niekto koho poznáte potrebujete pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám pošlite e-mail.

Kurdish Sorani

کوردی سۆرانی
نەگەر تۆ یان کەسێک کە تۆ دەناسی پێویستی بەیارمەتی هەبێت بۆ ئەوەی ئەم بەنگەنامە یە تێبگات یان بێخوێنتەوه،
تکایە پەیوەندیمان پێوه بکە لەسەر ئەو ژمارە یەئێ سەرەو دەدا یان بەو نێمەرێ.

Arabic

عربی
إذا كنت أنت أو أي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم اعلاه، أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني

Urdu

اُردو
اگر آپ یا آپ کے جاننے والے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے یا پڑھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں یا ہمیں ای میل کریں۔

Farsi

فارسی
اگر جناب عالی یا شخص دیگری که شما او را می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک نیاز به کمک دارد لطفاً یا
ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید.

Check, Challenge, Change