

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
17th July, 2018

Present:- Councillor Cusworth (in the Chair); Councillors Allcock, Beaumont, Brookes, Elliot, Jarvis, Marles, Marriott, Price, Senior and Julie Turner.

Councillor Steele was in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Councillor Hoddinott was in attendance for Minute No. 13 (Domestic Abuse Update).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Hague, Ireland, Khan, Pitchley, Short and Joanna Jones (Co-optee).

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Senior made a non-pecuniary Declaration of Interest in Minute No. 13 (Domestic Abuse Update) - Manager of Charity that works with victim adults and children affected by Domestic Abuse.

Councillor Jarvis made a pecuniary Declaration of Interest in Minute No. 17 (Spotlight Review - Adult Community Learning) - links with North Notts College.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Training

Caroline Webb, Senior Adviser (Scrutiny and Member Development), reminded Members that there were 2 Corporate Parenting training sessions to be held as follows in the Town Hall:-

Thursday, 19th July, 2018 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Monday, 23rd July, 2018 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Corporate Parenting Panel

Councillor Jarvis gave an update on the recent meeting of the Panel held on 9th July which included:-

- The young people had received national recognition from the prestigious Diana Award recognising their outstanding contribution to society
- Councillor Watson voted the Looked After Children's Council Champion

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- The issue of securing a bank account to enable the LAC Council to access funding
- 2 young people had been elected as Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer
- Revised Terms of Reference

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH JUNE, 2018

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 5th June, 2018, and matters arising from those minutes.

Arising from Minute No. 5 (Barnardo's Reachout Service Update), it was noted that there was a discussion on potential limitations of the Service and if the preventative strategy focussed solely on awareness raising with potential victims rather than work with potential abusers. The commissioning team had confirmed that it was something they did want to build up and would include in the needs analysis going forward.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 5th June, 2018, be approved as a correct record, for signature by the Chairman.

13. DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 103 of December, 2017, Councillor Hoddinott, Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, and Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety, Resilience and Emergency Planning, presented an update in relation to key activity and progress in relation to the provision of Domestic Abuse Services across Rotherham.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy was a partnership strategy, adopted by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and endorsed by the Cabinet. The Strategy set out the collective vision for Domestic Abuse (DA) Services within Rotherham for the next 3 years. There had been some key achievements to date, a number of which were outlined in further detail in the report submitted. A summary of key achievements was as follows:-

- The agreement of a revised action plan
- Reduction in waiting lists in commissioned DA Services
- Additional funding secured through Housing
- Revised training offer
- Commencement of a Perpetrator Programme
- Development of a handbook for practitioners
- Delivery of an independent peer review
- Subject of the Council's independent Health Check
- OFSTED – Rated Good
- PEEL – Rated Good
- Complete data set
- Delivery of a targeted World Cup operation

- Additional DA support over the Christmas period
- Enhanced engagement with Service users

Domestic Abuse had been subject to 2 independent reviews and was a specified area within the Council Commissioners' Independent Health Check. The Service had also undergone a full independent peer review led by colleagues from Bradford City Council and a sector-led improvement specialist. The full outcome report was attached as Appendix A to the report submitted. The findings of the report were largely consistent with those issues identified by the Partnership and made a clear case for improvement in some areas. It also identified a number of areas of good and effective practice.

There was a clear ambition of partners to work closely with Service users, victims and survivors to better understand how the Service worked for them and to work together on designing services for the future. During the Peer Review assessors and the team also ensured that Service users' voices were captured to inform the overall outcome; this was done through a focus group.

Rotherham RISE had agreed to work with the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator to plan an annual calendar of engagement events the purpose of which was to hear both feedback and consult on key policies/strategies.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- How was the voice of the child captured? As a result of the work with Peer Review, a much deeper audit had been undertaken by South Yorkshire Police looking across all of the districts and at the voice of the child within those DASH assessments (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence). Following this audit, the Police had increased their training offer specifically around DASH and capturing the voice of the child. In addition, it had been made a specific requirement of all MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Chairs that, when receiving/reviewing/discussing cases, a specific question was asked of how the voice of the victim had been identified and responded to. As part of the broader governance and assurance, a series of "dip samples" of cases, with the first taking place in Housing Services. This would look at decisions to move victims and if alternatives could be found. The next area subject to dip sampling would be Police records to establish if there were children
- The dip samples would look for specific reference within the DASH assessment to seek assurance that this is captured in the paperwork and practice. This may include details to establish if there were any children in the property at that time; what action police officers had taken; what the follow on actions were at the time e.g. was it passed through to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) particularly when looking at medium and standard risk

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In respect of the evaluation of the Perpetrator Programme; research from other programmes have shown that there is potential for increased risk to the victim. The concern expressed in the report was not based on any incidents/experience in Rotherham

- Further details was asked about Police willingness to engage. Details was given about their involvement in the Domestic Abuse Priority Group and to address the issues raised in the PEEL Review
- For example, a collective challenge was that of the backlog of standard and medium risk incidents around domestic abuse and the referral of those incidents particularly into the MASH. The Police had flagged and raised this as a legitimate concern and was being addressed at a partnership level. Assurances had been given that, whilst there was a backlog, it was triaged by professionals within the Police reviewing the cases and referring those considered to be high risk to the MASH on a timely manner.
- The Police had been requested to submit the performance analysis by the August meeting of the Domestic Abuse Priority Group. Clarification was sought whether there was a correlation between the change in reporting and increase in incidents and the decrease in referrals and reductions in positive outcomes.
- An increase across all crime types at the moment but in general those increases were as a result of the improved crime recording standards by the Police. There was a concern that there had been a slight dip in the level of incidents of domestic abuse, however, it was felt to be under reported.
- Repeat incidents – were services managing to resolve and support the victims or did they keep coming back?
- The Home Office prescribed a list of what they agreed was an official list of outcomes (18 potential) for the Police that then constituted an outcome to a particular incident or crime. It could range from a simple Caution through to Restorative Justice, Charge and Summons. The Police in Rotherham were looking at and understanding the outcomes. The documentation had been shared around the Council so there could be an understanding of the analysis of those outcome rates and some action in place to improve those
- Concerns were raised about online-abuse (e.g. stalking and harassment) and whether this is reported as an incident or a crime; how the risk is assessed and the potential for escalation. The Safer Rotherham Partnership, as a result of its priority setting process this year, had specifically identified stalking and harassment as an objective. There was a broader issue around online issues; cyber was a huge enabler of crime and a huge risk area that was not properly understood. It was intended to hold a dedicated conference

with partners around understanding what information was potentially on line, how to capture that information legally and legitimately and use it as part of investigations. The Police had had powers around stalking and harassment for some time. The Council also had a role to play in terms of its own tools and powers around stalking and harassment particularly when it linked into wider anti-social behaviour issues which would be reported in due course

- It was important to recognise that the Council did not always have to be at the exact level of the Police and if they said it was a crime it was resources and to this end the SRP and partners over the past year had co-located some of their key services around enforcement
- Clarification was sought about thresholds across services of risks particularly when children were present and ensure that these are consistent. Early Help assessments were used to understand the whole picture of a family in relation to children. The SRP were pushing the use of the tools that already existed and colleagues within the MASH actively challenging the risk levels that come through from Police colleagues
- Whilst the peer review highlighted positive work taking place, a number of gaps were also identified. There were a number of other players in terms of domestic abuse, particularly in the voluntary sector, that the Authority needed to engage and work with. It was important to get the system working together i.e. data sharing, governance and referrals. Challenges were put to partners who it were felt were not stepping up to the mark
- There was confidence that the challenge was happening and would continue to do so

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

(2) That the intentions in relation to varied case audits be noted and that a report in relation to the findings and learning as a result be submitted.

(3) That the action plan and engagement timetable be circulated to Select Commission Members.

(4) That regular updates continue to be submitted.

(5) That the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety submit a briefing paper in January 2019 to include an update on the action to address stalking and harassment and progress of the final report.

14. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES (CYPS) 2017/2018 YEAR END PERFORMANCE

Alisa Barr, Head of Service, and Deborah Johnson, Performance Assurance Manager, presented the 2017/18 year-end performance under the key themes for Children and Young People's Services

Due to the comprehensive nature of the report, summaries of 'good and improved performance' and 'areas for improvement' were reported provided together with a more detailed report for each Service Area i.e. Early Help, Children's Social Care and Education and Skills Section.

Performance had been considered against local targets, including associated 'RAG' tolerances. They were reviewed annually and set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and Rotherham's

What is working well

- Satisfaction rates for Early Help were consistently high with 100% of families completing exit surveys in March rating the Early Help intervention they received as Good or Excellent. The Service had achieved a total annual performance of 96% overall
- Annual performance showed that Rotherham's local total engagement rate was high (92.2%) with 59.7% of families contacted and engaged within 3 working days
- During the year partners had completed 15.9% of the total Early Help Assessments (6.5% 2016/17)
- Troubled Families' target of engaging with 633 families during the year had been exceeded (1,073 by the end of March, 2018)
- 96% of children living in the 30% most deprived super output areas were registered with a Children's Centre of which 68% were actively engaged
- Primary attendance rate was currently 95.7% compared to 96% nationally and secondary was 94.5% compared to 94.6% nationally
- Youth Justice Board statistics showed that Rotherham had made a positive decrease of 49.6% in the number of First Time Entrants from the same period last year. Re-offending rates had also decreased by 6.6% (29.2%)
- 5.6% decrease in the number of contacts with Children's Social Care, however, the referral rate had increased from 26.6% to 28.6%
- The re-referral rate had made incremental improvements (23.1%), a 4.4% decrease on the 2016/17 outturn evidencing that casework practice was significantly improving
- Provisional performance in relation to assessment timeliness was 78%, a 7.3% decline on the previous year, however, the volume of assessments completed had increased by 32%
- Less than 1% of children ceasing a Child Protection Plan (CPP) were subject to that Plan for 2 years or more. At the end of the reporting year there was only one child being supported through a CPP for

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- more than 2 years and only 10 who had been on a Plan for more than 18 months
- The Looked After Children's Virtual School had ensured 97% of eligible Looked After Children had a Personal Education Plan
 - Rotherham's Care Leavers Service graded Outstanding by Ofsted in the 2017 re-inspection of services
 - The number of children living in a family based placement remained relatively stable at 82.4% (81.1% at the end of March 2017)
 - Rotherham was top quartile performer for timeliness of adoptions with the adopted training package recognised by Ofsted as an area of excellence
 - Performance in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for a Good Level of Development continued to rise and be above the national average
 - 64.0% of pupils met the expected standard combined Reading, Writing and Mathematics (RW&M) in Key Stage 1 assessments (59.8% in 2016/17) and improvement of 4.2% and placed Rotherham above the national average
 - 61% of pupils met the expected standards in R,W&M with regards to Key Stage 2 (53.9% in 2016) an improvement of 71.% and in line with the national average
 - At Key Stage 4 the Rotherham Progress 8 score was +0.06, 0.09 above the national average score of -0.03

What are we worried about

- 85.3% of Early Help Contacts triaged within 5 working days, whilst below the 100% target, was consistent with last year's outturn
- 212 Payment by Results claims submitted for the Families for Change programme taking the total for the Programme to 292. Whilst a significant improvement, it remained behind at this stage of the programme compared to other authorities
- Annual outturn figure of 3.3% for Not in Education, Employment or Training against the local target of 3.1%
- Children subject to Child Protection had increased from 370 to 656 and Looked After Children 488 to 624 which equated to increases of 77% and 29% respectively
- The provision outturn position for the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences was 83.9%, 7.1% lower than last year
- Compliance against the local CPP visit standard was 89.1% which was less than 1% below last year's outturn position
- Decline in the timeliness of CPP Review Conferences of 94.6% compared to 98.6%
- Compliance for plans in date had seen an outturn position of 82.7% for eligible Children in Need, 86.7% for children subject to CPP and 89.7% for LAC
- Increase in the last 3 months in the number of LAC who were experiencing multiple placement moves. The provisional figure was 13.1% (81 out of 618 children) was an increase on 11.9% for 2016/17

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- LAC Health and Dental assessment performance was low although there was a suggestion that there was still some time lag in inputting data onto Liquid Logic by Social Workers
- 14.8% of pupils achieved English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) at grade 5 or above, 4.9% below the national average (all schools) and 6.6% (state funded schools). 17.0% achieve Ebacc at grade 4 or above, 4.9% below the national average (all schools) and 6.9% (state funded schools)
- A decline in the proportion of children and young people attending a “good or better” school of 2% to 84.0% at the end of December 2017
- 85.3% were triaged within 5 working days for Early Help Contacts which was maintained performance against last year
- 58.7% of families had been contacted and engaged within the 3 working days timescale with a further 32.5% being engaged with outside of the timescales. The total annual outturn was 92.2%
- Of the 68 Early Help Assessments in scope for completion in March 2018, 45.6% were completed within the target timeframe
- Progress and support for partners to complete Early Help Assessments was ongoing. By the end of March 2018 15.9% of EHAs in 2017/18 had been completed by partners which was a significant improvement on last year
- Primary and secondary schools completed 67.5% of partner EHAs with the remaining partners (including Health) completing the remaining 32.5%
- Children centres’ registration rates during 2017/18 was 91% against a 95% target. However, performance in the 30% most deprived Super Output Area neighbourhoods was better with 96% of children registered against the 95% target overall

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- A Performance Sub-Group had been established to scrutinise performance on a quarterly basis
- Clarification was sought on the eligibility for the Looked After Children for an Personal Education Plan.
- Eligibility was considered as opposed to all LAC children as a proportion of them were below the age of 3 years and not in education. The Authority had chosen to have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for all children over the age of 3 years that attended provision. Sometimes there were very good reasons why a child of 3 years was not attending provision i.e. if moving placement and delayed the start until in a more stable provision but if a child attended school and was of school age they would have a PEP in place
- There was confidence that the 97% of eligible LAC who had a PEP was correct as it was closely monitored. Every time a child underwent a LAC Review the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) would be checking that a copy was available

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- The 15 children without PEP at the end of 2017/18 were known, a number of which had only recently entered the care system
- Every child who came into care was allocated an IRO. The rise seen in LAC presented some significant challenges but the Directorate was clearly aware of its statutory duties to ensure every child had its review in the timescale required. Other experienced officers without caseloads were being utilised to provide additional capacity in an effort to maintain as best performance as possible
- There were a number of plans in motion currently one of which was Right Child Right Care which attempted to ensure that the Service was actively identifying and moving in an appropriately timely manner any child who should be safely, and could be, safely discharged from care so as making a child's time in care no longer than it should be. That involved discussions with foster carers and SGO, exploration of the extended family who perhaps in the past had not been in a position to care for the child and review all opportunities for the rehabilitation of older children
- Members of the Senior Leadership team were employing significant rigour around the review of decision making on every child coming into care to absolutely ensure that no alternative support could be offered to prevent them from coming into care
- Placement disruptions were not increasing. Recent evidence was showing greater stability for LAC. There was a pilot programme of intensive intervention programmes through the internal Therapeutic Team with evidence of the young people who had accessed the programme being extremely positive
- It was hoped that the figure for the placements lasting more than 2 years would decrease which would mean that more young people were being supported through to greater independence
- There was concern about the level of need and demand on services. A Head of Service and an Assistant Director had been put in place to review all children coming into care/subject of Protection Plans to provide assurance that those decisions were the right decisions. The situation had stabilised, however, the numbers had risen in the last 2 months due to a large number of sibling groups being taken into care
- It had been anticipated that the fortnightly performance meetings instigated during the improvement journey would cease, however, they have been retained to keep oversight. It was known that some of the recorded visits were not being completed within the preferred timescales, however, due to the performance meetings, it was known it was a recording issue

- New methodology was being employed for Social Workers which took time to capture the information in different ways
- Whilst the numbers of CPPs had risen, the children were subject to them for shorter periods of time
- There were a number of factors that made Rotherham's situation unique e.g. Ofsted, Casey, Jay. It was known that the Authority had families whose children had received a service from the Directorate previously but not received it at the right time and their needs were more complex and complicated now. There were also significant ongoing Police Operations which added complexity to the environment the Directorate was operating in as well as a Complex Abuse Enquiry in the Borough

The Chair thanked Officers for the report.

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

(2) That the Cabinet Member attends the September Select Commission meeting to enable further discussion on the year end outturn.

15. CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017 - IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE (CSW ACT 2017)

Ian Walker, Head of Service, reported on the implications for Looked After Children, previously Looked After Children and Care Leavers as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Act was intended to improve the support for Looked After Children (LAC), previously Looked After Children and Care Leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children and make revised provisions about the regulation of Social Workers.

There were 64 Sections in the Act of which the first 10 had direct relevance to LAC and Care Leavers:-

Section 1

Introduced the 7 principles of Corporate Parenting which local authorities must give due regard to for both LAC and Care Leavers whether or not they were the local authority who looked after the child (set out in the report submitted).

The Corporate Parenting Panel would need to review and formally adopt the principles and then benchmark current practice against them. The Panel may then need to agree and implement an action plan in order to ensure that any shortfalls were reviewed and addressed.

Section 2

A requirement for local authorities to publish information about the services it offered to Care Leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. The services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society. It was distinct from the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) local offer stipulated by the Children and Families Act 2014.

Although Rotherham had a formal offer to its Care Leavers, as approved by the Corporate Parenting Panel in February, 2017, it would benefit from a review as the focus on the health and wellbeing of Care Leavers and their participation in society was not as well developed as it could be. In addition, the Leaving Care Team had instigated further developments over the past 12 months including a formal offer for Care Leavers who were pregnant or young parents.

Section 3

A requirement for local authorities to appoint a personal adviser for Care Leavers who requested one up until the age of 25 regardless of whether the young person intended to pursue education or training. The local authority also had a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support. This duty had come into force as from 1st April, 2018.

A scoping exercise had been undertaken with Trafford Council who had been offering such support for a number of years which suggested that approximately 15% of Care Leavers were actively receiving support in any given week. On average this equated to each young person receiving 2 hours Personal Adviser time per week. In Rotherham this would equate to approximately one full-time equivalent Personal Adviser role.

The Leaving Care Team had recently received approval to increase the number of Personal Advisers and, therefore, it was anticipated that the additional function would be assimilated within existing staff resources.

Section 4

Placed a duty on local authorities to make advice and information available to parents, designated teachers in maintained schools and academies to promote the educational achievement of Previously Looked After Children. A local authority must appoint an officer employed by them or another authority to discharge the duty to provide advice and information.

Section 5

Placed a duty on the governing body of a maintained school to designate a member of school staff to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of Previously Looked After Children including those who were now the subject of adoption, special guardianship or Child Arrangements Order.

Meetings had already taken place between the Virtual School, the Head of LAC Service, Therapeutic Team manager, Post-Adoption Team, Post-SGO Social Worker and the post-Adoption Therapeutic Intervention Worker to consider how to work in collaboration in the discharge of the new statutory responsibilities of the Virtual School.

Section 6

Imposed a provision on all existing and new academy agreements requiring the proprietor of an academy to designate a member of staff to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of relevant children and young people. The proprietor must ensure that person undertook training and had regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

The Virtual School in Rotherham would ensure that all academies in the Council were made of the new legal requirement.

Section 7

Amendment of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to require the governing body of a maintained school to ensure that the designated teacher for Looked After pupils had regard to any guidance from the Secretary of State.

The Virtual School in Rotherham would ensure that maintained schools were made aware of the new legal requirement.

Section 8

Extended the definition of the permanent provisions in the Children Act 1989 so that it included kinship care, adoption and other types of long term care. The courts would now be required to consider the impact on the child concerned of any harm they had or were likely to have suffered, their current and future needs and the way in which the long term plan for the child's upbringing would meet those current and future needs. Social Workers would have to give full consideration to the issues in the child's Care Plan and as a result they may require some additional guidance from the Public Law Outline Care Manager to ensure they abided by this additional expectation.

Section 9

Amended the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and required courts and adoption agencies to consider the child's relationship with their prospective adopters in decisions relating to the adoption if the child had been placed with those prospective adopters.

Section 10

Amended legislation to allow local authorities in England and Wales to place children in secure accommodation in Scotland.

Some consultation had already taken place with partners who would be required to support some of the new requirements but further awareness raising would need to be undertaken with maintained schools and academies within Rotherham.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The offer to care leavers who were pregnant/young parents included physical support in terms of accommodation and financial support as well as emotional support. There were a number of young people who had evidenced their success in being young parents and, as a result, a peer group was being set up so they could “buddy” a young person who became pregnant
- Clarification was sought on the financial implications of extending the support to care leavers up to the age of 25 years. Work had been undertaken with Trafford Council had enabled an estimate of the number of young people aged 24-25 years that may seek financial support of the Authority. There was confidence that by managing the processes the Service would have sufficient resources with the additional Personal Adviser to ensure continuity of meeting the needs of those care leavers
- At present the Service was confident it could manage the current situation, however, if the number of LAC continued to rise then there would be significant pressure. Currently there were 167 children in scope for Right Child Right Care and so far it had achieved almost 1/3 of the required discharges from care
- The Virtual School was robust in challenging schools in their spending of the Pupil Premium on the LAC and would not allow it to be included within the whole school budget
- There would be a new Social Worker Regulator with requirements as to how an Authority evidenced its ongoing professional practice

Resolved:- (1) That the changes in practice that the Act would require along with the specific implications there would be for Rotherham Children and Young People’s Services be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Parenting Panel keep under review the implications of the Act as they developed.

(3) That the Head of the Looked After Children Service inform the Senior Adviser, Scrutiny and Member Development, as to whether Pupil Premium funding was ringfenced.

16. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITISATION

Caroline Webb, Senior Adviser (Scrutiny and Member Development), presented an outline work programme for 2018/19.

It was hoped that the programme would be finalised in September with a regular report provided on the reports coming forward.

Resolved:- (1) That the prioritised items within the Improving Lives Select Commission's work programme 2018/19, as submitted, be approved.

(2) That updates be provided to each meeting of the Select Commission on the progress of the work programme and for further prioritisation as required.

17. SPOTLIGHT REVIEW FOLLOWING THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

Caroline Webb, Senior Adviser (Scrutiny and Member Development), presented a report on the spotlight review that had taken place following the Ofsted inspection of Adult Community Learning.

A cross-party working group had been established to examine what actions had been taken to address the issues raised by the Ofsted inspection and had consisted of Councillors Clark (Chair), Beaumont and Cusworth. Councillor Short had also contributed to the planning meeting which had determined the key lines of enquiry for the review.

Ofsted had raised areas of concern arising from the previous inspection in 2014 which had not been addressed in a timely manner. It had further identified that quality improvement plans had not been enacted sufficiently quickly and that Elected Members had not received clear information with regard to performance.

A very clear picture had been provided by the Deputy Leader and officers as to the events leading to the inadequate judgement in June 2017. Following management intervention significant improvements had been made which had become evident later in the year post-inspection.

Resolved:- (1) That areas of concern raised in external inspections or reviews be referred to the relevant Select Commission on a timely basis alongside a plan detailing what action was proposed to address identified areas of improvement.

(2) That the Corporate Performance, Intelligence and Improvement Team ensure that learning from the reporting of areas of concern and, in particular the issues arising from the spotlight review, be applied to inform how performance management information was shared and acted upon.

(3) That future performance reports and scorecards should signpost Members clearly to areas of declining performance and actions taken to address these.

(4) That further details be provided to the Improving Places Select Commission to clarify how Council priorities linked to the skills agenda and community engagement would be delivered by Rotherham and North Notts College and how outcomes would be reported to Members.

(5) That the Council's representatives on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel be asked to keep oversight of the devolution of adult education provision to ensure good outcomes for Rotherham learners.

18. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on 18th September, 2018,. Commencing at 5.30 p.m.