

**THE CABINET
22nd October, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Beck, Hoddinott, Lelliott, Roche and Watson.

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board).

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alam declared a personal interest in Minute No. 43 (Implementation of the Early Help Strategy) on the grounds that his daughter attended the Broom Valley Assessment Centre.

40. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

41. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting held on 17th September, 2018, be agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

42. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

**43. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2016-2019:
'PHASE TWO & PHASE THREE'**

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the proposals for the implementation of Phase Two and Phase Three of the Early Help Strategy 2016-2019, following the ninety day public, partner, staff and young people's consultations which began in April, 2018 (following 12th March, 2018 Cabinet report) and which concluded in July, 2018.

The report provided a summary of the ninety day consultation activity, feedback on the proposals from staff, Service users and partners and an overview of how the responses have informed the final proposals. The report also covered the approved savings considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on 14th December, 2017.

The proposal was for Phase Two and Phase Three of the Early Help Offer to be delivered in a way that strengthened existing partnerships and neighbourhood working, developed new and innovative joint working arrangements and was targeted effectively to support the most vulnerable children, young people and families.

This would lead to the development of locality Family Hubs, (Early Help Team bases with staff co-located alongside RMBC services, Social Care and health partners and provide delivery points for the 0-19 Offer) and was an objective within Phase Three of the Early Help Strategy and informed by the rationale contained within; Family Hubs, A Discussion Paper, The Children's Commissioner, October 2016.

The introduction of a Borough-wide Intervention Hub would expand upon the current evidenced based programmes used by Early Help practitioners across the Borough to achieve better and more sustained outcomes for children, young people and families in Rotherham.

An expansion of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) provision would ensure that children and families received high quality, cost effective interventions.

Greater integration of the Youth Offending Team would bring interventions into localities so that young offenders were integrated more effectively into their communities and enhancing the multi-agency response from education, schools and Social Care.

This meant there would be a proposed reduction in the number of registered Children Centres from twelve to nine, whilst ensuring the Children Centre Offer within the locality was retained by delivering universal and targeted services from a range of sites better suited to the needs of families. However, despite deregistration, intervention and support would be retained for children and families in the localities that the named centres served. Deregistration of a Children's Centre meant that the building would no longer be used solely for Children's Centre Services. Children's Centre activity would continue in the area, but would be delivered from a range of other suitable venues. The venues affected were:-

- Park View (Central Locality).
- Broom Valley (Central Locality).
- Wath Victoria (North Locality).

The three centres proposed to be de-registered would continue to deliver Early Years services and Early Help would still retain access to the buildings to deliver sessions for up to ten hours per week through a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Further, there would be a proposed reduction in the number of Local Authority maintained Youth Centres and Early Help Team bases from eleven to six. The proposed Young Centres and staff team bases were:-

- Herringthorpe (Central Locality).
- Treeton (South Locality).
- Kiveton (South Locality).
- Maltby Linx (South Locality).
- Swinton (North Locality).

In some instances there was a perception from the public that closing a Youth Centre meant that the Services were also ceasing – this was not the case. The Early Help Service would continue to provide a 0-19 outreach and engagement offer and this would be incorporated into a targeted and detached 'youth offer' in localities based on demand and need.

The Leader, therefore, confirmed the proposals incorporated the approved savings to be achieved through the rationalisation of a range of properties whilst protecting the services being delivered.

Cabinet Members sought further information on the new model of service and assurances that local groups could continue to operate in the affected buildings.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process, but also the Improving Lives Select Commission, who were in support of the recommendations, but were asking Cabinet to consider:-

- For Improving Lives Select Commission to keep a watching brief on the implementation of Phase 2 & 3 of the Early Help Review.
- That an update was provided in March, 2019 in respect of the progress in establishing Service Level Agreements with schools for youth service provision and related transfer of assets.
- That an update was provided in September, 2019 to reflect how the Service was capturing the child/young person's voice in the work of the Early Help Service.
- That the exit survey and number of assessments completed by partners as performance measures be revisited.
- That Ward Members be consulted on the transfer or disposal of assets.

The Cabinet accepted all the recommendations as part of the pre-scrutiny process.

Resolved:- (1) That the implementation of Phases Two and Three of the Early Help Strategy be approved, incorporating:-

- (a) The development of locality Family Hubs, (Early Help Team bases with staff co-located alongside RMBC services, Social Care and health partners and provide delivery points for the 0-19 Offer).

- (b) The introduction of a Borough-wide Intervention Hub which will expand upon the current evidenced based programmes used by Early Help practitioners across the Borough.
- (c) An expansion of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) provision to ensure that children and families receive high quality, cost effective interventions.
- (d) A reduction in the number of Heads of Service posts from four to three.
- (e) The creation of Early Help Service Manager Posts.
- (f) Greater integration of the Youth Offending Team (YOT), bringing interventions into localities so that young offenders are integrated more effectively into their communities and enhancing the multi-agency response from Education, Schools and social care.

(2) That a targeted youth offer be approved and continue to be delivered for young people in localities and relocate staff, surrendering leases at:-

- Herringthorpe (Central Locality).
- Treeton (South Locality).
- Kiveton (South Locality).
- Maltby Linx (South Locality).
- Swinton (North Locality).

(3) That the three Children's Centres be de-registered whilst ensuring the Children Centre offer was provided to families within the designated locality at:-

- Park View.
- Broom Valley.
- Wath Victoria.

(Councillor Alam declared a personal interest in Minute No. 43 (Implementation of the Early Help Strategy) on the grounds that his daughter attended the Broom Valley Assessment Centre)

44. MODERN SLAVERY UPDATE AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report which provided a brief overview of planned activity in relation to modern slavery for the financial year 2018/19.

In July, 2018, the Council produced an interim statement, which was published on its website, in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Following further internal work to strengthen process and the commitments a more detailed statement for the financial year 2018/19 was drafted.

This document described the Council's commitment to transparency in its supply chain. It furthermore recognised the Council's unique role as a public body and made further commitments in this regard. The Statement also sought to capture the commitments made by the Council, over and above legal duties, and the Council's commitment to delivery of those ambitions. The statement also introduced the requirement for annual reporting.

In noting progress to date, the document highlighted the inclusion of training during Safeguarding Awareness Week; the start of developing a consistent training offer within the Council; the identification of at risk industries; increasing information and intelligence flow; establishing greater links with procurement/commissioning in relation to the issue and the inclusion of Modern Slavery explicitly with the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

To support commissioning and procurement colleagues, together with contract managers, guidance would be developed in relation to at risk industries, giving them details on how to access information, what to look for and where to go for advice. Work would also be carried out to explore standard relevant clauses alongside tightening tender specifications.

The Council would continue to develop its operational functions to be alert to this type of crime and be proactive in identifying it wherever possible.

Key activity would focus on highlighting key areas of risk and embedding into people's thinking in relation to broader safeguarding and into the Council's wider safeguarding activity in relation to awareness raising and regular briefings.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in full support of the recommendations.

Cabinet Members welcomed this Statement which would safeguard vulnerable people and tighten the Council's commissioning and procurement practices through training for key staff.

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

(2) That the Draft Transparency Statement at Appendix 1 be approved for publication.

45. AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which detailed how the Council had had an adopted General Enforcement Policy in place for a number of years. The Policy had since been reviewed and amendments made on a number of occasions, most recently in February, 2018.

This report, therefore, requested the approval for an amendment to the Policy clarifying the Council's position with regard to the surveillance of social media sites used by individuals and businesses within Rotherham. Over recent months it had become apparent that some sites were being used for illegitimate purposes by rogue individuals and traders, in particular in relation to fly-tipping and illegal and counterfeit goods.

Social media, despite being in the public domain, did not mean that rules around covert surveillance did not apply. Where information was made publicly available on social media platforms, logic would suggest that a reduced expectation of privacy would follow, where information relating to a person or group of people is made openly available within the public domain. However in some circumstances privacy implications still applied. This is because the intention when making such information available was not for it to be used for a covert purpose such as investigative activity.

In order to ensure the effective regulation of these individuals and traders, it was considered both necessary and appropriate to undertake proportionate surveillance of their activities on social media sites. In deciding whether online surveillance should be regarded as covert, consideration should be given to the likelihood of the subject knowing that the surveillance was or may be taking place.

As this surveillance constituted enforcement activity, it was, therefore, appropriate for this to be included within the General Enforcement Policy. Indeed, it was paramount that the Council was transparent in its approach to any potential investigation.

It was, therefore, proposed to amend Section 7 of the General Enforcement Policy to include reference to the Council undertaking surveillance within the powers and obligations available, in order to prevent and detect crime.

Given that the proposed introduction of social media surveillance as a regulatory and enforcement tool was a significant Policy change, it was considered appropriate within the terms of the *Regulator's Code* and the General Enforcement Policy, that the public should be consulted and responses considered prior to adoption.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed amendment to the General Enforcement Policy be considered and approval given to undertake public consultation in respect of the proposed changes to the Policy.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in Spring, 2019 for consideration following public consultation.

46. HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how house to house collections on behalf of charities, with some exemptions, were required to be permitted by Councils. Whilst governed by national legislation, there was provision for local discretion.

House to house collections were defined as 'an appeal to the public, made by means of visits from house to house, to give, whether for consideration or not, money or other property that may be sold for money, where the proceeds were given to any charitable, benevolent or philanthropic.

Applications were received by the Council from a number of organisations each year and the issuing of permits to authorise collections was considered by the Council's Licensing Board. The Council was not obliged to formulate and adopt a Policy in relation to the application process for House to House Collection Permits, and historically had not had a Policy in place.

It was now considered that by having a clear and transparent policy this would assist applicants' understanding of the process and facilitate more consistent decision making by the Council. The draft Policy also contained important criteria including a minimum of 80% of the value of the collections to be provided to the Charity and a time limit restriction for collections to a home address.

Resolved:- (1) That the draft policy be received and approval given to take the Policy to consultation with relevant individuals and organisations.

(2) That, following consultation, the Policy be submitted to the Cabinet in Spring, 2019 for adoption.

47. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.