

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham



Annual Report
2018 - 2019

Work Programme
2019 - 2020

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Welcome to the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny

This report presents a summary of the extensive scrutiny 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 encompasses the full range of scrutiny work carried out - pre-decision scrutiny; focused pieces of work on a specific issue; standard agenda items considered each year; and areas such as service transformation that continue over a longer period.

After scrutinising proposals for various major strategies in pre-decision scrutiny during 2018-19, such as the Customer Access Strategy, Scrutiny is keen to ensure that the non-executive Members will be involved in evaluating the impact of the changes on customer experience. The OSMB also emphasised its expectations to see equality impact assessments (EIA) included with proposals as an important aspect of the assurance process, and it is positive to see this becoming more embedded.

Recommendations from spotlight reviews of Adult Community Learning; Drug and Alcohol Services; and Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes have all been accepted. Cabinet also acknowledged the contribution made by the in-depth scrutiny review to strengthening arrangements for managing use of agency, interim and consultancy staff. Formal responses to the recommendations resulting from the following reviews/workshops - Modern Methods of Construction; Transition from Children's to Adult Services; and Multi-agency Working in Complex Abuse Investigations will be reported later in the year.

It is always a pleasure to support the Youth Cabinet in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge and this year we also welcomed participation from Rotherham Young Carers. The theme was based on improving opportunities for young carers to access leisure activities and I look forward to receiving the review report and recommendations from the young people. Last year's theme looked at improving work experience for all young people and the recommendations will feed in to the Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy and action plan.

It is pleasing to see that Scrutiny Members have again been out and about on visits to partners and service providers, either during reviews as part of their evidence gathering or to explore how things are working in practice following service changes. The session at Voluntary Action Rotherham resulted in two members of Rotherham Parent Carers Forum contributing to scrutiny of social, emotional and mental health, bringing their perspective as parents and service users as well as being partners in co-production.

Of late the work programme has strongly emphasised budgetary matters, linked to performance and delivery of improvement plans and strategies. Scrutiny Members will continue to seek assurances about future service sustainability through consideration of the work by services on demand management and new approaches in social care.

Finally, I would like 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 our co-optees who have given their time voluntarily to enhance the scrutiny process. In particular, I wish to recognise the positive and insightful contributions to scrutiny made by the late Lilian Shears from RotherFed on IPSC, who sadly passed away in June 2019.

I feel confident that the scrutiny function in Rotherham will continue to evolve and strengthen, achieving positive outcomes again in 2019-20 through our work programme.

Cllr Brian Steele, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Enhancing the Scrutiny Function

Introduction

The restoration of local democratic control of all services to the Council, including full decision-making powers to Cabinet, in September 2018 following Government intervention was a significant step forward. Lead Commissioner Mary Ney said: *“The Commissioners are pleased that the continuous hard work of members, officers and partners in Rotherham has resulted in sufficient improvement for democratic decision-making to be restored to the Council.”*

The scrutiny function continues to be critical within the Council’s formal governance arrangements, in ensuring oversight, accountability and transparency. Since the start of intervention the scrutiny function has been strengthened, underpinned by an extensive development programme to equip Members with the skills and confidence to carry out effective and meaningful scrutiny across all services. Scrutiny will continue to evolve and provide the necessary challenge to drive improvements and ensure further progress.

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** - Scrutiny provides 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 a decision before it is 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 and partners about how policies and services could be improved.
- ❖ **Pre-decision scrutiny** - OSMB use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify a small number of policy decisions to scrutinise in advance of them going to Cabinet. Details of these and additional recommendations from OSMB are on pages 8-9.

Work programme

Each year Members develop a scrutiny work programme using a prioritisation process to make sure their focus is on the right issues. Financial management and performance management will remain as key themes to ensure the Council achieves its priorities in view of the financial challenges faced. Service transformation and reconfiguration is another area in which Scrutiny seeks assurance that issues such as consultation, equality, communication, access and long term sustainability are all taken into account.

Members employed various methods in delivering their work programme last year in order to use the most effective approach for each issue under scrutiny. Performance sub-groups; task and finish groups; full and spotlight reviews; workshops; visits to service providers; and focused single item meetings all featured, in addition to reports or presentations to the full committee.

RMBC Scrutiny Members continue to participate in sub-regional scrutiny to ensure Rotherham has a voice and that our priorities and concerns are heard. We have been represented on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

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Next steps

- ❖ In 2019-20 work will continue to build on the progress made by the scrutiny function in recent years. The intention is to maintain a strong focus on holding the Executive to account but also maximising opportunities for a wider role in policy development.
- ❖ The Scrutiny Chairs held a positive reflective session to discuss their approach to scrutiny in 2019-20 and devised some core principles:
 - Focus on outcomes
 - Cross-commission working where possible
 - Debriefs after meetings to reflect and apply learning
 - Delegation of pre-decision scrutiny to the Select Commissions when possible
 - Chairs to continue meeting with individual Cabinet Members regularly to keep abreast of key issues
- ❖ Scrutiny would have more scope to influence policy, seek assurances or request additional information if pre-decision scrutiny were to take place at an earlier stage than just prior to the decision by Cabinet and this will need to be discussed.
- ❖ For major transformation projects OSMB have emphasised the need for Scrutiny to see clear timelines and milestones to facilitate progress monitoring.
- ❖ Greater public involvement in scrutiny is important and did have a renewed focus in 2018, with some positive results, as evinced in *Getting Involved* on pages 4-5. Members are keen to develop this further by building on the links made with groups and considering use of social media for engagement with scrutiny.
- ❖ Under Overview and Scrutiny Procedural Rules, responses to scrutiny review recommendations are to be reported back to Council within two months of the Council receiving the report and recommendations from the OSMB. During 2018-19 the response to several reviews exceeded this deadline and this is an area to tighten up given the time-limited nature of many reviews and the importance of showing the valued contributions of Scrutiny Members.
- ❖ Successful improvements or changes as a result of scrutiny work are not always referred to in subsequent officer reports. It would reinforce the impact and value added by scrutiny if their contributions were always acknowledged.
- ❖ In addition to building the effectiveness of the scrutiny function, there are also process issues to resolve which would make the function more efficient, particularly around items for the scheduled meetings:
 - Responses to other recommendations from Scrutiny – although systems are in place for responses to reviews and for recommendations made in pre-decision scrutiny, a formal process is needed for ones resulting from either scrutiny of items in scheduled meetings or more informal scrutiny workshops.
 - Forward Plan of Key Decisions – attainable dates when items are added to the plan will facilitate scheduling items for scrutiny i.e. right date first time.
 - Items removed from or added to agendas at short notice – this creates practical difficulties in managing agendas and may result in a meeting with a less meaningful agenda, an overloaded meeting agenda, or having to schedule an extra meeting, all in the context of the busy diary commitments of Members, officers and other witnesses.
- ❖ It is also timely to revisit the terms of reference for scrutiny and ways of working, as this has not been done for a few years, looking at good practice in other authorities.

Getting Involved in Scrutiny

Scrutiny Services constantly look at ways to raise public awareness of scrutiny work to try and encourage more people to be involved, through providing information and giving their views. It is important that scrutiny reflects the needs and concerns of everyone who lives and/or works in Rotherham.

We engage with the public in different ways alongside the positive contributions made by our co-optees, such as working with the Youth Cabinet to improve mental health services. We also speak regularly to tenants groups and have sought service user views on Early Help and other projects. Other examples of recent engagement activity include:

“An Audience with Scrutiny”

Cllrs Sansome and Steele participated in one of the “An Audience with ...” sessions hosted by Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR). They met with representatives from various voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to discuss what scrutiny is, how it works in Rotherham and how the VCS could become more directly involved in scrutiny work. Health, social care and housing in particular were issues that the VCS representatives were interested in. Further links with VAR are planned.

OSMB

- Has a standard agenda item at their meetings for the Youth Cabinet to raise any issues or concerns.
- Supports the Youth Cabinet in the annual Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge, which this year also involved young carers from Rotherham and Sheffield.
- Involved looked after children in the review of Modern Methods of Construction through participation in the site visits and hearing their thoughts and ideas.
- Considers petitions from members of the public with 600 or more signatures that are referred from Council.

HSC

- Have invited carers and carers representatives to scrutiny meetings, as mentioned on page 1 regarding social, emotional and mental health.
- Contact Healthwatch for any information they have to feed in to reviews/agenda items in addition to the standard agenda item for Healthwatch to raise any issues with Members.

ILSC

11 Young Inspectors met with ILSC Members who were impressed with their work and commitment. Members suggested that it would be helpful if copies of the summary reports, including outline recommendations and the response from the service, could be shared with ILSC. This would assist them in understanding where improvements had been made and if there were any areas of concern still outstanding. It was agreed that the summary reports from Exclusions and Contact Centres would be circulated. ILSC will maintain their links with the Young Inspectors. See also page 6 - Barnado’s ReachOut.

IPSC

- Three young housing tenants shared their personal experiences with Members and were congratulated for the positive impact they were making. Discussion also took place on other forms of support that could be put in place to support young tenants.

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- The Chair and Vice Chair, together with officers, met with approximately 30 community members to discuss their concerns regarding bereavement services.

Scrutiny meetings take place in public and include a dedicated slot for members of the public to ask questions on the items on the agenda. More detailed information about the scrutiny process is included on our webpages at www.rotherham.gov.uk/scrutiny.

This includes a “have your say” form for people 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 even if they are unable to attend scrutiny meetings. We will also be looking at using social media as a means of developing our public engagement.

You can find out more about the issues scrutinised in previous reviews on our website. Two recent examples are Drug and Alcohol Services and Use of Agency, Interim and Consultancy Staff by the Council. The responses from Cabinet (and partners where applicable) to recommendations made by the scrutiny committees are also available.

Broad areas for scrutiny in the 2019-20 work programme are set out on page 27, providing a flavour of the work coming up. VAR, the Children and Young People’s Consortium, Rotherham Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors and the Different But Equal Board have also been invited to send in their suggestions on key issues or concerns to inform the work programme. Once the final version has been confirmed we will regularly update the webpages about current and upcoming work and welcome your involvement.

The next section in this report highlights where scrutiny has successfully had a positive impact, either at pre-decision stage, in reviews and workshops or through scrutiny of agenda items at the scheduled meetings.

Public engagement during 2018-19

The scrutiny bodies continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers and co-opted members. Scrutiny Members appreciate their input in reviews and discussions and would like to thank the co-optees who served on the Select Commissions in 2018-19.

Health - Victoria Farnsworth and Robert Parkin, Speakup

Improving Lives - Joanna Jones, Voluntary Sector

Improving Places - Wendy Birch and Lilian Shears, RotherFed

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Alternatively you can write to us:

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

In this section are examples highlighting where positive changes have resulted, or are under way, as a result of the work undertaken by Scrutiny, either this year or as a result of previous recommendations. As the sections for each committee show later in the report, some outcomes are less tangible than the ones provided here. They tend to be ones where Scrutiny has looked closely at a particular service, or at the development and implementation of a strategy, over time, until Members have been assured about progress and improvements. Examples include improvements in child and adolescent mental health services, bereavement services and the multi-agency response to domestic abuse.

- ❖ The final Youth Transport Charter and promotional poster developed by young people with SYPTE, following a Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, have been published and a new webpage launched.
- ❖ IPSC asked RotherFed to consider including a young tenant on the RotherFed Board. The idea was welcomed, although it is recognised that intermediate steps to involve young people and build capacity will be needed first.
- ❖ Following a recommendation in 2017-18, improvements were made to the budget consultation process to ensure that public views could be taken into account by OSMB in their scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2019-21.
- ❖ ILSC requested specific information for the 2018 update on CSE Post Abuse Services. Responding to this request and in light of capacity concerns identified through performance monitoring, a service review was undertaken by Children's Commissioning to quantify and understand pressures on the services and come up with long term recommendations for future commissioning.
- ❖ OSMB supported a petition calling for a CCTV camera in the Memorial Garden, Clifton Park to prevent further vandalism and make visitors feel safer, which has been installed.
- ❖ Members have been consulted on the refresh of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) following a recommendation to the Fire and Rescue Authority.
- ❖ Last year OSMB suggested a small scale trial in different types of households (terraced housing, flats, and maisonettes) prior to full implementation of the changes to waste recycling. A trial took place in flats which saw a huge increase in recycling, particularly in places that had not previously had the opportunity to recycle.
- ❖ Following a recommendation from ILSC that lower levels of engagement with health colleagues in Barnardo's Reach Out service should be raised at the Children and Young People and Families Partnership, increased referrals from health and the police have resulted. Another recommendation was to ask the Young Inspectors for ideas to help increase primary school engagement with the Real Love Rocks Train the Trainer offer. Good suggestions were made by the young people and will be considered in the ongoing promotion of the training offer and further awareness raising activity.
- ❖ The refreshed Sexual Health Strategy includes clear actions on communication and information for people with a learning disability following a recommendation from HSC.
- ❖ Two areas of focus after the Equality and Diversity peer review have been EIAs and building knowledge to embed equality protocols and practice. OSMB Members embraced this by participating in a development session on EIAs after emphasising the importance of all nine equality protected characteristics being recognised and the need

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to consider intersectional issues, such as Black and Minority Ethnic older people.

- ❖ OSMB's suggestions about improvements to the Annual Complaints and Compliments Report contributed to the new improved reporting format.
- ❖ Rotherham "Voice of the Child" Lifestyle Survey 2018 - ILSC discussed the design of the survey and recommended that thought be given to streamlining it and to including demographic and equality monitoring information. The Commission will be involved in developing the questions for 2019. They also asked about use of the data by Public Health and partners, and the survey has informed the refreshed Sexual Health Strategy.
- ❖ Following a previous recommendation from HSC, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and RMBC Customer Information and Digital Services are continuing to explore possibilities for joint work to increase digital engagement now the Rotherham App is live, particularly for phase two. The project manager has been discussing groups who download the app and how they utilise it, to inform the next phase.
- ❖ **Scrutiny Review - Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services**
Development of a new joint pathway between mental health services and drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services for service users with needs arising from both their mental health and substance misuse resulted from a recommendation by HSC.
- ❖ **Scrutiny Review - Emergency Planning**
More recommendations have now been implemented, including the Corporate Risk Manager acting as a "critical friend" in amendments to the Major Incident Plan. The review group had also recommended running an "out of hours" training exercise and *Exercise Thunderbird* involved a test scenario around a rail crash and included all elements of the Major Incident Plan.
- ❖ **Scrutiny Review - Use of Interims, Agency and Consultancy staff**
This sought assurance that the Council measures performance and value for money in this area and takes appropriate action to maintain spend within acceptable limits. Agreed definitions for all three categories have been adopted Council-wide, together with corresponding revised budget codes. Business case forms and processes have also been updated.
- ❖ **Scrutiny Review: Alternative Management Arrangements for Children's Service**
A performance tracker was developed following this review. This comprises a set of 20 measures selected by ILSC, after working with performance staff, that CYPS report on weekly to the Commission. Current performance, year-to-date and trends are included under three domains of healthy and safe from harm; start school ready to learn for life; and ready for the world of work. It also links to Safeguarding and Early Help reports.
- ❖ **Scrutiny Workshop: Adult and Community Learning**
As a result of a broad recommendation on performance management, quarterly performance reports have been redesigned and clearly include any areas of under-performance and action being taken to address any issues and make improvements.

At Council, Cllr Watson declared: "This was a good report .. and is the sort of thing that Scrutiny should, and does, do - moving policy and performance forward."
- ❖ **Scrutiny Review – Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes**
Processes for briefing Ward Members have been strengthened. For example, in a recent provider-led closure of a care home Members were advised of the process and procedures to be undertaken and their queries were addressed at a dedicated meeting. This facilitates responding to queries and concerns from residents.

Outcomes from Pre-Decision Scrutiny

OSMB undertakes the majority of this work but also delegates proposals to the Select Commissions to scrutinise where more appropriate. The recommendations proposed in the pre-decision reports considered by Scrutiny in 2018-19 were all supported, bar one proposal that was deferred by Cabinet pending finalisation of the EIA, as recommended by the OSMB. Scrutiny also successfully made additional recommendations to Cabinet regarding a number of policy decisions, as summarised below.

“Cabinet have continued to be appropriately challenged by Scrutiny over the last 12 months, supporting the governance process in ensuring that open and transparent decision making is able to take place.” The Leader, Cllr Reed

- ❖ **Enforcement** - Single code of practice for officers in respect of enforcement activity and issuing penalties (by the Council or an external body on behalf of the Council) in place.
- ❖ **Policy on Immobilisation of Vehicles (Clamping) - Persistent Evaders and Untaxed Vehicles** - Following a recommendation from IPSC that the viability of reducing the number of offences from six to three should be explored, this was subsequently set at four Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).
- ❖ **Enabling School Improvement** - OSMB recommended that members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet should be appointed to the new Rotherham Strategic Education Partnership Board to ensure the voice of young people is heard.
- ❖ **The House Project (a co-production approach to finding alternative housing solutions to secure permanent homes for young people on leaving care)** - The Leaving Care Team linked in with the Scrutiny Review of Modern Methods of Construction (see page 11) and Scrutiny Members were given assurance that care leavers with additional needs would be included in the House Project.
- ❖ **Rotherham Local Plan - Adoption of the Sites and Policies Document** - Specific briefings in respect of major planning developments to be delivered to Ward Members on a ward-by-ward basis.
- ❖ **Area Housing Panel Review** - The proposed second report regarding the new organisational and budget arrangements for Area Housing Panels from 2020-21 will be subject to pre-decision scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet. The paper will also address governance arrangements and provide clarity on delegated decision making.
- ❖ **Site Cluster Programme Amendments** – The recommendation for the Section 151 Officer to share the learning from this project in respect of the tender and contract agreement process, to ensure that larger scale projects undertaken across the authority are well managed and controlled, was accepted.
- ❖ **Amendments to the Housing Allocation Policy - January 2019** – Amended wording regarding people who are included as having a local connection to Rotherham.
- ❖ **Consultation on the Adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and a Rotherham Sex Establishment Licensing Policy** - OSMB fully supported these proposals and Cabinet implemented the recommendations from the Board for wide reaching public consultation to engage as many people as possible, including workers in the industry, in giving their views.

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❖ Community Energy Switching Scheme

OSMB had fully supported a paper seeking agreement for a feasibility study into developing a community energy switching scheme in Rotherham to reduce the number of people paying high tariffs for gas and electricity. Subsequently, a second report detailed the proposed scheme that would be open to all Rotherham residents and sought approval to carry out procurement process to identify a potential partner to develop a scheme.

Scrutiny had previously requested that, subject to the outcome of the study, thought be given to the marketing and promotion of the scheme. This was reflected in the report as it recommended engaging with voluntary and community sector groups, and a range of Council services, to inform the marketing and communication strategy. Cabinet approved additional recommendations from OSMB regarding building customer support and service standards into the tender framework, with performance reported quarterly.

Cllr Cowles, Vice Chair of OSMB: “As opposition members we endeavour to keep the politics out of this vital function and to participate as fully as possible. We ensure that cabinet members and officers are held to account for the decisions that they take while seeking the best outcomes for the people of the borough.”

As mentioned on page 1, OSMB is keen to ensure that governance and monitoring arrangements allow for non-executive Members to be involved in evaluating the impact of changes on customer outcomes and experience. This related in particular to the [Customer Access Strategy](#), [House Project](#), [Enabling School Improvement](#) and the [Learning Disability Strategy “My Front Door”](#).

Follow up reports to either OSMB or the relevant Select Commission have been requested in 2019-20 specifically to monitor the implementation of several new initiatives, strategies or service changes. These include:

- the re-designed [Intermediate Care Service \(HSC\)](#)
- annual review of the [Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Prevention Strategy](#) – reporting specifically on the strategy’s financial sustainability and compliance with Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (IPSC)
- [New Library Strategy 2020-2025](#) - an OSMB sub-group will scrutinise outcomes of Phase 1 of the consultation prior to the start of work on the final service offer.
- Commissioning and Procurement of a New Delivery Model for [Home Care and Support Services](#) - HSC will monitor implementation of the new contract, with a report back in November 2020 once the contract has been in a place for a year
- [CCTV Priority Capital Investment and Policy](#) – IPSC to review use of cameras
- Implementation of the [Early Help Strategy Phases 2 and 3 \(ILSC\)](#)
- [Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan and Forge Island Development](#) - quarterly updates and exception reports if not on track (OSMB) and flood alleviation (IPSC)

Pre-decision scrutiny of the following items is covered later in the report:

- ❖ ILSC - [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Sufficiency and increase in educational provision - Phase 2](#)
- ❖ IPSC - [Clean Air Zone](#)
- ❖ OSMB - [Early Help Strategy Phase 2 and Phase 3 and Budget 2019-20](#)

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The remit for the OSMB is:

- 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

Early Help Strategy 2016-2019: 'Phase Two & Phase Three'

A detailed report summarised consultation activity, feedback on the proposals and an overview of how responses had informed the final proposals. It also covered the approved savings considered by OSMB in December 2017. Members supported the recommendations and added additional ones, taking into account input from ILSC who - additional recommendations were all approved by Cabinet and in summary were for:-

- a progress update on establishing Service Level Agreements with schools for youth service provision and related transfer of assets
- Cabinet to revisit the exit survey and number of assessments completed by partners as performance measures
- an update showing how Early Help is capturing the child/young person's voice
- Ward Members to be consulted on the transfer or disposal of assets, which is happening

Implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review - Use of Interims, Agency and Consultancy Staff

In addition to the outcomes seen on page 7, other recommendations are still being implemented. Further work had been requested to explore options to reduce the requirement for seasonal agency staff and a paper outlined specific progress on reducing agency use across Street Scene Services. A review of the Council's resourcing processes was being undertaken, including options for management of agency engagements and the development of a central 'bank system' for casual or temporary workers. The Board welcomed the progress made but will maintain a focus on agency spending and asked for a report back to include trends, plus a further breakdown on consultancy costs.

Council Plan Performance Monitoring

OSMB regularly discussed current performance and direction of travel against the key delivery outcomes and measures in the Council Plan, including the year-end report for 2017-18. For each report they probed more deeply into the measures where they had concerns and were provided with additional information on remedial actions to address the issues. They also inquired how the creation of a rich and diverse cultural offer and thriving town centre would be measured and were provided with specific examples. Concerns about the 101 system and hate crime were followed up with South Yorkshire Police.

Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Annual Report

A presentation detailed the SRP's priorities and achievements the previous year, including revised processes and stronger engagement. A peer review had provided assurance that the SRP was developing in the right way and identified areas for further development, such as aligning resources and commissioning. It was agreed performance information regarding hate crime would be shared with Members. OSMB recommended that further work be undertaken to establish protocols for sharing local offender management plans, or information supporting such plans, to Ward Members.

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Joint OSMB and IPSC Scrutiny Review: Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)

MMC is a generic term used to cover different types of homes that are manufactured in a factory environment and either fully or partially assembled in the factory, or the component parts are assembled on site. This review focused on the viability of providing low cost housing for young single individuals and young families in one and two bedroom modular accommodation, incorporating suitable technology where possible to reduce running costs.

After extensive evidence gathering and a number of site visits, Cllr Cowles presented the final report and recommendations. Various pertinent issues had emerged such as the general lack of affordable housing for young people and young families, with many local authorities struggling to meet demand for social housing in their area. Homelessness and the implications from recent welfare reform and the introduction of Universal Credit were also factors. In addition, traditional build houses take longer to complete than container or modular build homes. The review formulated a small number of recommendations and the Cabinet response will be reported to Council and OSMB later in 2019.

Scrutiny review: Rothercard Scheme

A sub-group of OSMB is undertaking a review of the current Rothercard Scheme to determine if it is still fit for purpose as it has been running for a number of years. After considering the information provided, including initiatives in other local authorities, officers have been charged with developing a business case for a new sustainable scheme. This should include a range of options linked in with the digital agenda, plus clear eligibility criteria. Members will consider the business case and potential options before making recommendations about the future operation of the scheme.

Impact of Roll Out of Universal Credit in Rotherham (July 2018)

Universal Credit is an integrated working-age benefit providing a basic allowance with additional elements for children, disability, housing and caring. People move onto Universal Credit when they are a new claimant or after a change in their circumstances.

OSMB considered an initial report as a starting point for scrutiny of this issue. What became clear was the balance needed between the Council's function as a landlord, where risk of rent arrears impacts financially on the Housing Revenue Account, and its role in supporting residents. The Housing Income Team had been restructured to help support tenants with financial advice and staff training on assisting tenants with making claims for housing benefit had taken place corporately not only in Housing Services. As it was still quite early in the transition a follow up report would break down issues relating to impact on housing tenants and the broader impact on residents in the borough.

The Board also discussed a potential decline in Council Tax Support applications now this was an additional, discrete process to the Universal Credit application. Members sought assurances about communication of the changes to residents and inquired about actions taken to encourage people who were potentially entitled to Council Tax Support to apply.

Budget and Council Tax 2019-20 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

Prior to commencing scrutiny of the two-year budget proposals for 2019-21 a small sub-group considered progress in delivering savings agreed in previous years across all directorates. OSMB had also requested a briefing paper to inform its approach to scrutiny of emerging budget proposals for 2019-20 and it was noted that Cabinet had established a set of Service Design Criteria, which were guiding the development of budget options. Members reflected on the financial challenges faced, noting the specific challenges in adult and children's social care services, and queried what proposals would be brought forward and whether re-engineering of business processes was happening. Discussions also focused on potential approaches to assist in reducing unit costs associated with

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children's social care and to move away from building based services. OSMB emphasised the importance of timely submission of proposals for scrutiny and for public consultation.

In-depth scrutiny of the budget proposals from service areas for the period 2019-2021 was carried out over two days in October. Further details on certain options, particularly those for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), were also explored at length in a subsequent workshop, prior to Board submitting its interim response to the proposals.

A report summarising the methods used and responses to the recent public consultation on the Council budget proposals was presented. Members probed into how the consultation process had been designed, costs in terms of time and money, and whether any difficulties had been encountered in collating information due to the range of methods used. Clarification was sought on how the Council had looked to consult with groups sharing a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Board recommended that future budget consultation should ensure these groups are targeted more effectively.

At pre-decision scrutiny Members asked questions regarding delivery of the large scale ICT and technology driven projects across the Council; treasury management; and income generation initiatives. Final assurance was sought that measures to reduce the number of Looked After Children were starting to make a difference and that adult residential and nursing care would continue to be monitored. The Board endorsed the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2019-20 after having regard to the outcomes of public consultation and updated MTFs, which reflected recommendations Scrutiny made earlier in the year.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 2019 – Young Carers

OSMB reaffirmed its backing for this initiative by supporting Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) and Rotherham Young Carers in a spotlight session in April. The theme was chosen as it linked in with RYC's manifesto aims - to make sure young carers have the same opportunities as adult carers to access free activities, in their caring role and as a respite from their caring responsibilities. Prior to the meeting RYC had met with Rotherham Young Carers and undertaken research about support available in other areas. After setting the context, young people from both groups led a question and answer session with Members, partners and officers to explore how more opportunities could be created. A report and recommendations, is being drafted at the time of writing.

"It was a very special meeting for me and I was honoured to chair it. To get all the decision makers in one room is when change really happens and as a group we are incredibly fortunate that the scrutiny board helps us make it happen every year." Emilia Ashton, RYC

Financial Outturn 2017-18 and in-year Financial Monitoring

Members noted the outturn position for 2017-18 and expressed concerns about the significant overspends in social care services for children and adults, seeking assurances in respect of work to analyse and reduce spending in these areas. Despite line-by-line analysis of each budget, increased demand was still the main cause of pressure. The forecast overspend for 2018-19 was also discussed, together with actions to address areas of overspend and identify additional savings to mitigate shortfalls in planned savings. OSMB recommended building in adequate time for consultation when planning the implementation of budget savings, to avoid delays in realising savings.

A series of in-year reports set out the current financial position at that time, based on actual costs and income for the financial year to date with forecasts for the remainder of the year. The main area of overspending continued to be in CYPS as a result of demand for services outstripping budget capacity, which also impacted on the budget for Legal Services. Pressures were reported in Regeneration and Environment Services to deliver

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

their agreed savings and Members sought clarification on alternative strategies should income targets not be achieved. Issues with regard to vacancy management were explored in terms of any potential impact on service delivery, and on other employees, of not filling vacant posts to achieve savings. The Board will consider a report on the new HR and Payroll System once implemented in phases from June 2019 which will rationalise information on the staffing establishment as at present data is held in HR and Finance.

Adult Social Care Financial and Performance

A workshop took place in July 2018 to update Members on the current position, issues and challenges in Adult Care to set the context to inform their future scrutiny. Following this session OSMB has scrutinised quarterly updates summarising developments and progress in relation to the improvement plan and budget position. The main points to emerge were:

- Scrutiny of the plan developed by the Principal Social Worker enabled Members to have a good appreciation of activity taking place with staff to embed the strengths based approach, improve quality and practice standards, and enhance legal literacy.
- OSMB sought assurance that the overspend would continue to fall and were assured that although still a challenge, the level had decreased month on month since September 2017.
- Responding to concerns around pace and meeting targets, a specific activity report would be produced to provide reassurance to Members.
- The importance of clear dates, actions and milestones in plans to facilitate monitoring and to inform the Scrutiny work programme in 2019-20.

Children's Services Financial Monitoring and Review

Given the budget challenges in the service, OSMB receives comprehensive quarterly updates on the current budget position and pressures; in-year mitigations; future plans and progress on the sustainability plan and initiatives to manage demand. The Board asked probing questions and sought assurances around the budget position; achieving the savings; and reducing the overspend; without this having a negative impact on the quality of services provided for children and young people. Significant savings are linked to reducing demand and OSMB were informed that signs of the expected improvements from the initiatives put in place were appearing. Members requested more information on the number of out of borough placements and greater clarity on timescales and milestones for addressing in-year budget pressures. They also asked that future reports include more detail on transformation projects to provide greater assurance.

OSMB scrutinised a separate paper summarising the increased number of Education, Health and Care Plans; growth in demand for specialist provision; and current financial position of the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The High Needs Block Recovery Plan aimed to bring in-year expenditure in line with the annual budget allocation and to focus on a longer term plan which would contribute to reducing the cumulative deficit. The option to implement a recovery plan to enable future budget sustainability was supported by OSMB who would look at this again as part of the monitoring cycle.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

As requested by OSMB, a 12 month review post implementation of the PSPO for the Town Centre was undertaken to assess its impact and consider any variations or new orders. As previously agreed, potential inclusion of a condition relating to nuisance vehicles had been reviewed. However, with only limited incidents the previous year, it was agreed that no further action was needed at that stage, although incident monitoring would continue. Members also discussed the proposed PSPO for Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham and focused on resourcing, consultation and avoiding displacement to other areas.

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 health issues relating to health or 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

Response to Scrutiny Review - Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services

The spotlight review sought to ensure that the service, which is operating within a reduced budget, would provide a quality, safe service under the new contract from April 2018. Eight recommendations had resulted, with a focus on performance management, being proactive on safety, care pathways, and risk minimisation. All were accepted by Cabinet and HSC discussed the actions being implemented under each and the progress made.

One of the recommendations was for Public Health and CGL to present an overview of how the new service was developing after six months, including a summary of progress on the key performance indicators. Members scrutinised a comprehensive performance scorecard for treatment and recovery services, including exception reports and analysis of trends. They were assured by the performance and contract management arrangements. CGL articulated their methods to increase opiate use service exits, which is a corporate priority, including using different clinical approaches with service users, with safety paramount. Other areas explored by the Commission included waiting times; service user voice; use of new psychoactive substances; mental capacity; and if risk assessments would identify any issues regarding domestic abuse.

Five Members returned to Carson House to view the new treatment facilities and discuss the services offered to help people recover from substance misuse. They asked questions about service user involvement and were provided with "you said, we did" examples. Recognising the challenges of long term methadone use, Members explored how service users were responding to new approaches. Assurance was provided on how the service was involved in partnership safeguarding arrangements and linked with local pharmacies.

Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategy

In October 2017 Members considered information presented by Rotherham schools regarding their response to children and young people with SEMH needs and requested a further report in 2018. A new strategy is under development which will underpin a multi-agency approach to ensure children's needs are met effectively and as early as possible. HSC were assured this would be based on a thorough understanding of levels of need across the system, matched with agreed pathways that were clear, well communicated and properly resourced.

HSC explored a number of issues including capacity across the system, especially in Pupil Referral Units, therapeutic responses and partnership working. They recommended that consideration should be given to the provision and support for young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people, as young people had reported difficulties in accessing services. Members also recommended having a lead case worker for families as a dedicated single point of contact, after communication with families had been raised as an issue in some cases. **check**

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

HSC discussed positive progress on the delivery of specialist CAMHS within Rotherham and the ongoing review of the Local CAMHS Transformation Plan. They also considered information on key themes identified from previous scrutiny work including workforce development, waiting times, the impact of locality working, closer integration with Early Help and transition from CAMHS. As with SEMH, Members asked about support for LGB&T young people, given the long waiting times for specialist clinics such as Tavistock. Attention was also drawn to differences between mental health and neuro-developmental conditions, although both come under CAMHS. Further work is underway on the autism spectrum pathway, which was still a concern, and HSC will scrutinise this in 2019-20.

Rotherham Care Group, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH) - Estates Strategy

RDaSH presented the emerging proposals to rationalise their estate from six buildings to four after consultation with stakeholders on two preferred options. This work links into the wider place-based plans. The aim is to improve access, including having a town centre facility in Rotherham, and to have integrated mental health and learning disability services for all age adults. Members explored issues around staffing and capacity for mental health services and the financial challenges and will keep developments on their agenda.

Response to Spotlight Review: Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes

The purpose of the workshop was to consider progress in bringing about improvements to safety, quality and effectiveness in the sector. It was also an opportunity to explore the impact of the Care Home Support Service. Four recommendations resulted that were all accepted and actions are being implemented as part of the on-going service requirements.

Briefing Ward Members on issues relating to a care home in their ward has become more formalised, as seen earlier in the report. HSC were keen for all care homes to be encouraged to work with the Care Home Support Service and Clinical Quality Advisor (CQA) to raise standards, particularly through participation in training. Providers are being actively encouraged to embrace the offer and any reluctance to engage informs soft intelligence to feed into the provider risk matrix. Members also recommended that care home staff be encouraged to attend organised training sessions and that the take up and the impact of training be monitored. Training schedules of the staff working in care homes are monitored by Contract Compliance Officers. Care Home managers are asked to provide their training matrix for verification, which includes both mandatory and additional specialist training. Training that is due/overdue is also monitored.

Rotherham Integrated Care Partnership and Implementation of the Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan

Scrutiny of integrated working between health and social care is central to the HSC work programme. A short presentation outlined the priorities in the refreshed plan, governance, key achievements, new ways of working in localities and next steps. Discussion then ensued on the performance report for quarter one, with Members probing into a range of issues and verifying the rigour of the performance data. A particular focus was on mental health crisis services and suicide prevention work. Current workforce challenges and maternity services were also explored.

Subsequently HSC considered the scorecard for quarter two and saw positive progress on a number of the indicators since the previous report. Members will receive the future quarterly performance reports for information and with a number of the key workstreams included within HSC's work programme, any concerns arising from performance data will be explored at that time. They identified points for clarification or questions regarding a small number of the milestones/measures which were forwarded to officers for a response.

Evaluation of Health Village Pilot and Implementation of Integrated Locality Model

A small cross-party group discussed the key findings and challenges from the final evaluation in a workshop session. The aim was to feed into the discussions about wider implementation, across localities with differing demographic profiles and health needs. HSC emphasised the need for effective liaison and communication with carers as this seemed to be a gap in the evaluation/next steps. They also focused on the need for qualitative feedback to supplement the quantitative measures so that patient experience on the difference the new model has made is captured and reported.

A further update provided an overview of progress towards more integrated working overall and more specific detail about the emerging model for locality working. Capacity and recruitment challenges emerged as key concerns in being able to deliver the new models. Members re-emphasised the need for qualitative information and asked for clarification on the timescales for implementation of the locality model.

Adult Care Single Point of Access, Care Coordination Centre and Health Village

Following the updates to HSC, a cross-party group of seven Members visited these service access points. They met with managers and staff at all three sites who were enthusiastic about the benefits of working more closely with colleagues from other partners and teams. Clearer understanding of other roles, better communications and information sharing were cited as positive benefits, contributing to delivery of more holistic care.

Adult Care

Although OSMB led on scrutiny of Adult Care, HSC also discussed progress on implementation of the Carers Strategy (which includes young carers) and the learning disability strategy "My Front Door". The performance sub-group scrutinised year end performance on the national Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, including benchmarking with other local authorities. A thematic review using Red-Amber-Green ratings under the headings of prevention and delay; independence; personalisation; and perception and experience, linked in the relevant ASCOF measures. The key area that emerged for a more in-depth piece of work was reablement and this was followed up by an update on development of the Intermediate Care and Reablement Outline Business Case.

South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SYDNoW JHOSC)

During 2018-19 Cllr Evans represented RMBC on the JHOSC, which scrutinises proposals and workstreams for NHS service reconfiguration that impact on more than one local authority. The committee considered updates on implementation of changes to hyper acute stroke services and to out of hours children's surgery and anaesthesia. Members also discussed the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SY&B ICS) and development of the SY&B response to the NHS long-term plan. They recommended further work on myth busting around the ICS and how it worked so it was clearer for the public. Further information was sought on plans for communication and engagement on the response to the NHS long term plan, to be followed by details of the engagement undertaken and emergent themes.

Following the Hospital Services Review, the focus is on transformation, both in terms of the workforce such as changing job roles, and by moving activity from hospitals to primary/community care where appropriate. Co-operation between hospitals will also be more formalised through hosted networks for five specialties. Options will be developed for maternity, paediatrics and gastroenterology services. Members again stressed the importance of public engagement and improving communications. Assurance was sought on addressing health inequalities and variations in performance and that plans would be delivered within timescales and resources.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

“The Health and Wellbeing of the Working Age Population” - Director of Public Health Annual Report and Making Every Contact Count (MECC)

This report was the third in a series that worked through the life course, focusing on key health issues at different stages of our lives. It highlighted successes in Rotherham, but also the challenges faced as a community. Members discussed the report and the MECC initiative “Healthy Chats” at length. They probed into specific concerns including the decline in women’s healthy life expectancy; impact of domestic abuse and other Adverse Childhood Events; use of e-cigarettes; substance misuse; treatment and recovery from cancer; sexual health and work in deprived areas. Follow up information was provided on several areas and HSC agreed to scrutinise the refreshed Sexual Health Strategy in 2019.

Scrutiny Workshop: Transition from Children’s to Adult Services (Joint with ILSC)

The purpose of the workshop was to seek assurance that young people and their families/carers would have a positive transition through clear pathways and a strength based approach that sought to maximise independence and inclusion. The review group therefore explored a number of issues in depth to ensure that:

- There is a clear understanding of the cohorts of young people likely to transition to adult services in the next few years, with strategies, plans and budgets aligned accordingly.
- The new pathway, based on the Preparing for Adulthood model (PfA), will lead to demonstrable better outcomes for young people.
- Services are able to evidence how young people and their families/carers have voice and influence in transition and support planning.
- Services have a shared approach to assessment and strength based practice.

Members welcomed the closer working between the two services, and also with partners including health and the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, to deliver PfA under the key principles identified. They acknowledged the benefits of PfA starting early in a child’s life, not just in the teenage years, for developing skills and confidence. There was recognition that this work is still at a relatively early stage but the sub-group felt positive and reassured by what is developing. Potential follow up actions emerged for the Scrutiny work programme and a small number of recommendations will go forward for consideration.

Rotherham Hospital CQC Re-inspection

A powerpoint presentation provided HSC with a comprehensive overview of the key findings and ratings from the re-inspection in 2018. The Trust was still rated as “requires improvement” overall and it was positive to see improvement in Children’s to “good” and in the responsive domain to “good”. Balanced against this was the “inadequate” rating for Urgent & Emergency Care (UEC) with many of the concerns in relation to paediatric A&E.

Further detail was provided in relation to the principal challenges and ongoing issues identified and actions taken since the CQC visit to address these. Member questioning was extensive and although the responses provided some reassurance, HSC resolved to have a future progress update in line with the timescale for completion of the UEC actions.

Developing General Practice in Rotherham

This longstanding topic in the HSC work programme originated from the Scrutiny Review: Access to GPs and reflects the important role of GPs and their wider workforce in health care and the new models being developed. HSC considered a presentation giving an overview of the current offer and take up of appointments, including in the weekend hubs. Outcomes from the national GP patient survey and innovations such as the Rotherham App were also discussed. Significant changes to General Practice will result following new national guidance and an update on what this will mean for patients in Rotherham will be provided for HSC.

Improving Lives Select Commission

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

- 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
- the implementation of Rotherham's plans to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people

Much of the work of ILSC in 2018-19 has featured scrutiny of progress on key plans and strategies, drilling down into specific areas where more information was required to provide Members with the requisite assurance about services. *Cllr Cusworth affirmed:*

"Sometimes scrutiny work can span a number of years and this has been the case with the Domestic Abuse Strategy. Starting in 2016 with no real strategy in place, ILSC has held the Lead Member and officers to account. The strategy is now almost in a place where ILSC know they have made a real difference. We now have confidence in the strategy and can let go of this and focus attention on other areas where improvements can be made."

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) - Sufficiency and Increase in Educational Provision - Phase 2

After setting the context for Rotherham, a detailed overview was presented of the key themes in the SEND strategy, what is working well and areas for development. Current actions and timescales were also included. ILSC noted the progress made with the SEND and Inclusion agenda and agreed to have periodic updates over the next three years to ensure the continuation of the direction of travel and pace of developments given the change in two key leadership posts. Further information was requested regarding the High Needs budget monitoring group once set up and the regional evaluation when available.

Later in the year Members went on to discuss a detailed report regarding publication of the refreshed Special Education Needs Strategy (2019) as part of the Borough's Local Offer for children and young people with SEND. Approval was also being sought to commence consultation with schools and settings regarding the additional capacity required and to seek proposals to increase educational SEND provision across the Borough. Post-consultation a further report would come forward with recommended proposals for implementation and the associated allocation of capital investment to support delivery.

ILSC supported the recommendations to Cabinet but questioned the inclusion of the no-change option to retain SEND sufficiency at current levels as a viable option. The Commission also suggested further discussion was required on possible work with partners to look at the high prevalence within Rotherham of autism. Cllr Cusworth fed back to OSMB about the outcomes of this scrutiny and the proposals were endorsed.

Outcomes from the Workshop Session - Complex Abuse Investigation

Cllr Clark presented a briefing on the outcomes and recommendations from a workshop session. The purpose had been to seek assurance and further understanding of the extent to which agencies were working together effectively to address complex abuse.

Several key issues were explored including: when complex abuse procedures were used; which agencies were involved and at what level; impact of the investigations on referrals to social care; engagement with Early Help; and how the voice of the child is captured in investigations. After questioning officers and partners, Members were assured that the Council and its partners were working effectively within the prescribed policy for complex abuse investigations. A small number of recommendations went forward for consideration by Cabinet and partners and the response will be reported later in 2019.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Children Missing from Education (CME) and Children Home Educated (CHE)

CME refers to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable alternative education. ILSC have closely scrutinised CME, with in-depth analysis of data on new, active and closed cases currently and in comparison with previous periods. Outcome data is captured and the scorecard records a breakdown by year group and main presenting need or issue, plus demographic and locality information.

Evidence suggested recurrence was largely due to families being transient and then returning to Rotherham intermittently rather than concerns about vulnerability and/or safeguarding issues. Reassurance was provided that the whole family was looked at, not only the child missing from education. Assertive outreach and work to educate families about the detrimental impact of removing children from school was taking place. The service was also confident that agencies were soon notified if any new families moved into the area, through the work in the community. Links with Selective Licensing, safeguarding, and work under the auspices of the Controlling Migration Fund were explored.

Members also asked questions with regard to Elective Home Education, including local authority powers and the checks carried out following an application. A multi-agency governance group is in place and an escalation process had been established if children had not been seen. IPSC made a recommendation for future six monthly reports to include the Strategic Missing Group and the wider context of CME, plus detail on persistent absence, Fixed Term Exclusions and Elective Home Education. A further recommendation around including CME and CHE in the weekly tracker has been implemented. ILSC also recommended that consideration be given to the appropriate arena for evaluation of the Controlling Migration Fund, and a paper will go to OSMB.

Demand Management and Placement Sufficiency - Looked After Children

Numbers of looked after children have increased significantly and Members scrutinised a report setting out current strategies to manage demand and financial pressure, including some assessment of their impact, and also future plans. Members sought clarification on various processes in relation to children entering and leaving care. They inquired about the marketing strategy for foster carers, especially for respite foster carers and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic foster carers and heard about positive work to develop the Muslim foster care project. ILSC also explored foster carer resignations and what support was available. Improvements were being seen but there were still issues to probe into more deeply. Another update ensued on the refresh of the Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy and a sub-group will look at the emergent options in detail.

Looking more broadly at support for looked after children, ILSC considered an update on the Improvement Partner Peer Review of the Looked After Children Service. This prompted a workshop on legal aspects around children's social care to provide a greater understanding of the process and challenges, areas of good performance and ones that needed to improve. As a result, Members recommended further data analysis on re-referrals. A report on practice implications from the Children and Social Work Act 2017 was considered separately and the Corporate Parenting Panel will keep this under review.

Update on development of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency

Following the rejection of the original business case developed by Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST), an additional sum of money was allocated by the Department for Education to underwrite the further costs of rewriting the business case. RMBC will remain fully engaged in the development of the model to ensure it meets the essential criteria desired for Rotherham. Members noted the expectation that the revised business case would be completed by April 2019 and then undergo necessary ratification. Democratic accountability should also be a consideration.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse has been a core workstream for several years with ILSC considering regular progress reports, suggesting improvements and influencing policy development in this area. At the first 2018-19 update, Members noted the key achievements and probed into areas they had raised previously, such as the perpetrator programme and capturing the voice of the victim and of the child. Concerns were raised about online abuse, such as stalking and harassment, and how this is reported, how the risk is assessed and the potential for escalation. Clarification was also sought about risk thresholds across services, particularly when children were present, and ensuring these were consistent.

A second update covered service user engagement, the current Domestic Abuse Service review, and progress on the Domestic Abuse Strategy. Details of audit activity to support continuous improvement within Domestic Abuse services was also presented, as previously requested. Members had also asked for information on work taking place on stalking and harassment and probed into this theme. Gaps in Domestic Abuse - Stalking and Harassment, and how it supported victims of stalking and harassment effectively, were acknowledged and were being looked at. Figures did not distinguish in terms of stalking and harassment data and if it was linked to domestic abuse or stranger-related. ILSC commented on the good progress made in the last 18 months and agreed to consider a further report in respect of the principles for the Domestic Abuse Service, prior to submission to Cabinet. A follow up report on addressing the gap in service related to stalking and harassment was requested as this remained a concern.

Performance

ILSC has a strong focus on performance in both CYPS and education. As mentioned on page 7 the weekly tracker is in place and a performance sub-group meets quarterly. The Commission has kept up-to-date in relation to progress on recommendations from the Ofsted inspection and the outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit. Work last year included:

- Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) 2017-2018 Year End Performance

A summary of performance under key themes was supplemented by performance data reports that provided trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages. The report outlined areas of good or improved performance and areas for improvement, broken down between Early Help and Family Engagement; Education and Skills; and Children's Social Care services. Members asked questions on a number of issues including demand for services and caseloads. They focused in particular on Looked After Children, including eligibility for personal education plans and Right Child Right Care plans and noted increased placement stability.

- CYPS Performance Sub-group - Safeguarding and Early Help Services

In relation to safeguarding, Members explored contacts progressing to referrals; numbers in care and leaving care; family contact; concerns about health and dental assessments; and care leavers in employment, education or training. For Early Help, questions centred on sources of referrals; quality of assessments; step-up/step-down provision; differentials in team performance, and pathways for children missing from home. Future reports were requested on dental assessments and on apprenticeships for Looked After Children.

- Provisional Education Performance Outcomes - year ending summer 2018

An overview of the un-validated educational outcomes of children and young people in Rotherham was presented. Members probed various issues including plans to address under-attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils; plans for other disadvantaged cohorts; partnership working with Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT); how University Campus Rotherham (UCR) would link to the Skills Plan and the education sector as a whole; and actions to boost performance of more able students. Follow up work is planned in 2019.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Response to Scrutiny Workshop: Adult and Community Learning

The purpose of the workshop was to seek assurance that issues raised in the Ofsted inspection of Adult and Community Learning in 2017 had been addressed and wider learning arising from this applied. As a result of the recommendations, improvements have been made to processes arising from areas of concern raised in external inspections or reviews, and to how performance management information is shared, acted upon and reported to Members. Delivery of Adult Community Learning was transferred to Rotherham and North Notts College and work has taken place with them regarding their input to the Employment and Skills Plan and how adult learning contributes to skills development.

Rotherham Pause Practice Update

Pause is a voluntary programme working with women who have had, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care. It keeps the women at the centre and enables them to address a number of complex and intersecting needs, as Pause works with other services such as Housing and Health. After considering the outcomes of a scoping exercise for Rotherham last year, ILSC had supported initiating the Pause Project in Rotherham and it commenced in July 2018.

The positive impact for the women on the caseload was noted and ILSC asked about support for other women who met the criteria but were not part of the cohort. Discussion also took place on future sustainability and funding. ILSC requested further information on partner contributions and longitudinal impact. They also recommended looking at whether the women who had completed the project could progress to the support of Housing First.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Post Abuse Services Update

Members considered a report with the key findings of the CSE review referred to on page 6, responses to information previously requested and the longer term recommendations for commissioning post abuse services. This includes taking a whole system approach with partners for commissioning support services to avoid duplication, maximise resources and improve service user experience. A needs analysis would be undertaken to inform future commissioning and external funding bids. Contracts for the services had been extended to 30th September 2019 to allow for commissioning a different service offer following the findings of the needs analysis and system mapping. ILSC agreed to have a further update outlining the impact of the remedial actions and progress made on the proposed joint commissioning, with health partners asked to attend. Clarification was sought on actions to fill the gaps for post-trial support, bearing in mind funding limitations.

Barnardo's ReachOut Service and Barnardo's ReachOut Final Evaluation Report

This service strives to support and protect children and young people in Rotherham who are at risk of CSE, through preventative education, targeted outreach and direct support to individuals and their families. ReachOut has been delivered in most of Rotherham's primary and secondary schools. To make the project more sustainable school staff have taken part in a Train the Trainer programme so schools are able to deliver the programme.

After scrutiny of the service last year, Members discussed two updates and the evaluation report of the service which was very positive, with the good feedback from CYPS and other agencies welcomed. ILSC explored various issues with a focus on engaging more schools; publicity; referrals from health partners, and sharing information. Page 6 shows recommendations that have progressed and ILSC recommended further work with schools that had not engaged, on the reasons why and how engagement could be improved. Given the wider remit of the service, another progress update will be presented in 2020.

Scrutiny Workshop: Transition from Children's to Adult Services – See HSC
Early Help Strategy 2016-2019 Phase Two and Phase Three - See OSMB

Improving Places Select Commission

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

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

Refuse and Recycling Collections Service Changes

Following their previous scrutiny of the communications and engagement strategy for the planned service changes, IPSC heard an update on the implementation of the new waste and recycling services across Rotherham. Since October 2018, residents had experienced big changes in terms of their bin collections, with the introduction of the new garden waste collection and black bins (pink lid) service. Initial figures on recycling rates were positive and the number of complaints received lower than expected, with the ones upheld mostly around a missed bin collection. One of the biggest challenges for recycling was for flats, maisonettes and housing complexes: chutes and security of some of the community collection sites and how to protect them. Joint work with Housing was taking place; incorporating lessons learned from the trial in flats mentioned earlier.

Members asked questions regarding levels of contamination of waste and how this was monitored and about regulations covering burning waste. They also explored ongoing engagement and communication, especially in areas with lower recycling rates, and ways to assist customers who require additional support, such as people with visual impairments or with dementia. They noted the update and intend to visit the Manvers Waste Centre.

Dignity Funerals Ltd. and RMBC Contract

As part of their continuing scrutiny of bereavement services, Members have undertaken a series of planned visits to Rotherham Crematorium to see the recent work to improve the facilities. The Commission also considered the Annual Report from Dignity at its meeting in July 2018, which included performance indicators for agreed service improvements and for requirements on both availability and performance. Prior to this formal scrutiny there had been discussion between the Council and members of the local Asian community regarding arrangements for Muslim burials. The key issues raised were times during the day when burials take place, costs and a general lack of satisfaction. A suggestion that emerged was to form an all faith group to consider any issues for people of other faiths.

IPSC noted the Annual Report and good progress on establishing new contract management arrangements following the transfer of this function to Registration Services. Members were supportive of proposals to set up a joint RMBC/Dignity Project Liaison Group, to facilitate discussions with the community and faith groups about bereavement, burial and cremation issues, which linked well to the feedback from the community.

During the year Members considered a further update on performance on the service improvement targets and KPIs. Their previous recommendation about the format of future performance reports had been put in place. Indicators and targets were now Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rated and had also been rated high, medium or low according to priority. 75% of service improvement targets and 89% of KPIs were rated green and IPSC welcomed the on-site improvements and wider liaison.

After discussing the extended hours pilot at length, IPSC requested a report on the outcomes. Points raised at the meeting to feed in were monitoring the impact of the pilot on local traffic and effective communication with all parishes and parts of the borough.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Update on Rotherham's Cultural Strategy Development

In July 2018 positive progress was reported on developing the new strategy, which will be the overarching document that sets the direction for culture, sport and tourism across the Borough. Spatial priorities had been identified and wide-ranging consultation was planned with the public, partner organisations and other stakeholders. IPSC questioned officers about the consultation and how they would ensure it would be effective, include all wards in the Borough and involve “hard-to-reach” groups. They also asked about consultation with children and young people and links to schools and colleges. Three Members agreed to keep a watching brief as the strategy developed.

Draft Skills and Employment Plan

With the increasing importance of skills in attracting investment and growing local businesses, as well as ensuring local residents can access employment opportunities, it was agreed by Rotherham Together Partnership that Rotherham required a standalone Employment and Skills Plan. The plan will build on the existing Rotherham Economic Growth Plan (2015-25) and also seek to complement the Sheffield City Region's Strategic Economic Plan and its Thematic Priority on Skills, Employment and Education.

Key lines of enquiry probed into the following areas:

- Preparing young people for the world of work including performance on the Gatsby Benchmarks
- Transport accessibility and connectivity across the region and the “Wheels to Work” scheme
- Funding allocations across the City Region and expected benefits for the local economy
- Qualifications of both older workers and young people
- Absence of some targets within the plan
- Reductions in the workforce in some sectors and plans to help affected employees
- Opportunities to achieve Level Four qualifications and the advantages of a university campus
- Apprentices securing permanent employment with the same employer
- Ill health and social exclusion

It was agreed comments made on the draft plan by IPSC would be considered for inclusion in the final version to Cabinet. Members requested further information on a range of issues and a future progress update.

Submission of Clean Air Zone Outline Business Case to the Joint Air Quality Unit

Rotherham and Sheffield have been mandated by DEFRA to improve air quality by reducing NO₂ emissions. The two Councils were required to submit an Outline Business Case to Government by the end of 2018, demonstrating how they will reduce emissions in the shortest possible timescale. It was noted that the Parkway crossed the border into Rotherham, so the Council was mandated to take action where identified in the report.

IPSC scrutinised the proposals at length, making recommendations that were endorsed by OSMB as part of pre-decision scrutiny. Members were in support of the recommendations proposed, but recommended that the fleet of vehicles used by RMBC be reviewed to make sure it met the required regulations and that the final business case should clearly show the points arising from consultation. Although there were no regulations specifically for Council vehicles, Cabinet took on board the need to look at air quality and contributions in terms of vehicles. The Clean Air Zone has remained on the work programme and IPSC discussed the outline consultation plan in a subsequent workshop. Another issue raised was the potential impact of the Clean Air Zone on traffic flows in neighbouring areas.

Thriving Neighbourhoods

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the production of a new neighbourhood strategy, with wards as the building blocks to enable partners and communities to work together to improve local outcomes. The Annual Report 2017-18 summarised the first year of delivery of the new model of neighbourhood working and lessons learned, in addition to making recommendations for future delivery of the model. The new draft Thriving Neighbourhoods: The Rotherham Neighbourhood Strategy 2018-2025 was noted. IPSC recommended that the required training for Members and officers in relation to the working of Thriving Neighbourhoods should be undertaken as soon as possible. Members requested a report in six months regarding devolved budgets and the governance framework (including monitoring progress on Ward Plans and evaluation of them).

Housing Strategy Refresh 2019-2022

Following earlier discussion of a presentation outlining achievements under the present strategy and the proposed vision, key priorities and pipeline projects for the refresh, it had been agreed that the draft revised strategy would come back to IPSC prior to Cabinet. A varied range of issues were explored including the annual target for new build properties; impact of right to buy; distribution of new Council stock across the borough; potential increase in housing needs as the university develops; and the need to promote town centre living to link in with wider regeneration strategy. Members also queried if an element of sustainable transport was included within the strategy.

Clarification was sought on how officers were working with developers to increase the number of properties built and provision of specialist properties for people with specific needs, which should be located so as to encourage mixed communities. Questions were also asked regarding the options for military veterans in the area and how the strategy would impact on them. Linking to the recent scrutiny review, modern methods of construction were also discussed as an alternative to traditional build properties.

IPSC recommended that a detailed action plan is produced to enable monitoring of progress on the strategy. They also requested a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment for the Housing Strategy and asked to see the six monthly progress reports presented to the Strategic Housing Forum, which has responsibility for holding the service to account.

Resulting from scrutiny of the refresh of the Housing Strategy IPSC also considered a report on Section 106 Agreements (S106) and implementation of the Rotherham Community Infrastructure Levy. It informed Members on the monies received from S106 and potential CIL income generated by demand notices issued up to 31 January 2019.

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-22

Officers gave a detailed presentation covering the legislative changes and duties for the Council underpinning the new strategy, which was under development. Achievements under the current strategy were highlighted, together with an overview of the proposed priorities for the new strategy. IPSC inquired about funding streams and support for people who had experienced domestic abuse and those with mental health needs. The work of the Rough Sleeper Team and Tenancy Support Team, including joint working with other partners and outreach was also explored in detail.

Home to School Transport Policy

IPSC noted the progress made on implementing the new Home to School Transport Policy, which had been approved in April 2018. Copies of the policy, the Parent and Carers Brochure and the new Assessment Matrix: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for home to school transport were provided for the Commission.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Clarity was sought on information used in the assessment matrix and about the appeals process. Questions also focused on progress with independent travel training and Members were informed that work was under way with schools to determine levels of need and capacity to deliver. Special Schools were keen to train their staff to deliver the training for their students.

Two recommendations resulted from the discussions and a further update on implementation was requested in 2019:

- to consider looking into the use of contactless cards on buses to support independent travel by young people who might have less visible support needs, such as autism
- to reconsider the appeals process for the renewal of a home to school bus pass in cases where a family's circumstances had not changed from the previous year

Asset Management Progress Update

The Corporate Asset Management Plan 2017-2025, which incorporates the Council's Asset Management Policy and Strategy, is the guiding document for Asset Management activities and priorities. Progress against the plan is monitored by the Asset Management Board and the position as at November 2018 was reported to Members, who queried the "green" rating status attributed to measures classed as on hold. It was agreed changes would be made to these for future reporting. The Commission had previously requested more information about property reviews and a draft flowchart outlining the Surplus Property process was discussed and supported by IPSC.

A number of issues were explored with more detail and/or clarification provided, including:

- Consistent management of former school caretakers' bungalows as isolated properties
- Management and acquisition of commercial real estate
- Development of cost effective energy services
- Review of efficiency on Worksmart
- Decision making of the Asset Management Board and how this worked in practice
- Strategic acquisitions of spare unused land
- Redevelopment of other town centres

IPSC noted progress on the plan and the ongoing work on records storage and reporting of statutory compliance. An update on Worksmart was requested when it was relaunched.

Rother Valley Country Park Caravan Park

The Commission noted that construction of a new camping and caravan site at the park was on track and scheduled for completion and handover in March 2019, in line with the original project programme. The Commission explored a number of issues and asked for more details regarding provision to charge up electric vehicles. Follow up reports were requested to cover the procurement of the booking system and then the first six months of being operational, including any impact on residents in the area. Several Members also visited the site in November.

In April Cllr Mallinder reported that the Caravan Park had recently opened and the Camp Management Booking System was now in operation. This had been "road tested" and found to be customer friendly and easy to navigate. A full report would be submitted in autumn 2019 on bookings and the effects of traffic on nearby properties. Members queried why there were only three pitches for motor homes when these were growing in popularity. They asked for the follow up report to include customer reviews/experience of the site and whether any potential customers had been lost due to unavailability of an appropriate pitch for their needs.

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Scrutiny Membership 2019-20

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Meetings are held fortnightly at 11.00am on Wednesdays

Cllr Cusworth	TBC
Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Keenan	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Mallinder	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Napper	Cllr Wyatt



Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Vice-Chair: Cllr Allen Cowles

Contact: James McLaughlin - Tel: 01709 822477

The commission meets (usually) at 2:00pm on Thursdays every six weeks.



Cllr Albiston	Cllr R Elliott	Cllr Vjestica
Cllr Andrews	Cllr Ellis	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Bird	Cllr Evans	Cllr Williams
Cllr Brookes	Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Cooksey	Cllr John Turner	Cllr Yasseen

Chair:
Cllr Eve Keenan

Vice-Chair: TBC

Contact: Janet Spurling - Tel: 01709 254421

Improving Lives

The commission meets (usually) at 5:30pm on Tuesdays every six weeks.



Cllr Atkin	Cllr Fenwick-Green	Cllr Marriott
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Hague	Cllr Pitchley
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Ireland	Cllr Price
Cllr Clark	Cllr Khan	Cllr Senior
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Marles	Cllr Julie Turner

Chair:
Cllr Victoria Cusworth

Vice-Chair: Cllr Jarvis

Contact: Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765

Improving Places

The commission meets (usually) at 1:30pm on Thursdays every six weeks.



Cllr Atkin	Cllr Khan	Cllr Sheppard
Cllr Buckley	Cllr McNeely	Cllr Taylor
Cllr B Cutts	Cllr Reeder	Cllr Julie Turner
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Rushforth	Cllr Whysall
Cllr Jepson	Cllr Sansome	Cllr Wyatt

Chair:
Cllr Jeanette Mallinder

Cllr Jones

Our Work Programme 2019 – 20

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- ❖ Council Plan Performance
- ❖ Safer Rotherham Partnership
- ❖ Complaints
- ❖ Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- ❖ Customer Services Transformation
- ❖ To add post discussion
- ❖ Revenue Budget Monitoring
- ❖ Welfare Reform
- ❖ Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge
- ❖ Pre-decision Scrutiny

Health

- ❖ Adult Care Service Development
- ❖ Autism Strategy and Pathway
- ❖ Public Health
- ❖ Rotherham Integrated Health and Care Place Plan
- ❖ Respiratory Services
- ❖ Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- ❖ Maternity Services tbc
- ❖ Gambling and Gaming tbc
- ❖ South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System
- ❖ NHS Trust Quality Reports

Improving Lives

- ❖ Early Help/Social Care Pathways
- ❖ Safeguarding – Children and Adults
- ❖ Holiday Hunger
- ❖ CYPS Workforce Strategy
- ❖ Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy
- ❖ Counter Extremism in Schools
- ❖ CYPS Performance
- ❖ Monitoring Ofsted Inspections
- ❖ School Performance
- ❖ Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Improving Places

- ❖ Thriving Neighbourhoods
- ❖ Social Inclusion
- ❖ Building Stronger Communities
- ❖ Cultural Strategy
- ❖ Litter and Recycling
- ❖ Rotherham Town Centre
- ❖ Major Incident Plan
- ❖ Area Panel Housing Review
- ❖ To add post discussion
- ❖ To add post discussion



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

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