








**Appendix 1 - External inspections, reviews and audits recommendations update - Audit Committee July 2024**


Title and purpose	Date	Outstanding recommendations	Original target date for completion	Revised target date for completion	Status	Progress update
<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>						
<b>Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)</b>  <i>Every three years Ofsted conduct an inspection to review the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements for Children and Young People.</i>	June 2022	<b>Overall outcome:</b> Good, four areas for improvement identified and all now complete.				
		Actions were monitored through the Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan and reported for review and challenge to the Directorate Leadership Team.				
		Area for Improvement 1: Consideration of previous history and current circumstances when responding to 'Front Door' contacts and child protection concerns	November 2022	February 2024		<b>Complete</b>
		Area for Improvement 3: The level of ambition for individual care leavers, the support for them to achieve their aspirations and the detailing of this in pathway plans.	June 2023	January 2024		<b>Complete</b>
<b>CSE review (Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership)</b>  <i>Independent Review was commissioned by the Chief Officers from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), South Yorkshire Police (SYP), and The Clinical Commissioning group</i>	March - May 2022	<b>Overall outcome:</b> The review team were assured that the concerns regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) were taken seriously, acted upon, and dealt with appropriately. The review also concluded that services in Rotherham have strong leadership, accountability and locally developed multi-agency relationships which take a robust approach to addressing CSE. The review team found no evidence that CSE may be occurring on the same scale as in the past as detailed in the Jay report in 2014.				
		Progress has been monitored through the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership.				
		Area for improvement 6: Keeping children and young people safe - further training and awareness must be provided that recognises the changing landscape of CE/CSE to more online abuse to ensure that all	March 2023	March 2024		<b>Complete</b>

<p>(CCG, now Integrated Care Systems ICSs) following concerns raised in a Conservative Briefing paper dated 3 November 2021.</p>		<p>children and young people and adults at risk including those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are also provided with awareness that ensures they are given information that can help them keep safe.</p>				
<p><b>Adult Care, Housing and Public Health</b></p>						
<p><b>Exemplar accreditation of housing tenancy engagement (Tpas)</b></p> <p><i>Tpas Exemplar is for organisations who have been awarded the Tpas PRO accreditation three times and have consistently demonstrated their exemplar approach to engagement.</i></p>	<p>October 2022</p>	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Tpas exemplar accreditation achieved with all seven themes achieving an individual PASS status. The Exemplar status will run until 2024. Tpas made 16 areas of improvements/comments covering 6 themes, plus 6 areas of good practice were referenced. The target end date for all actions was prior to next scheduled 2024 accreditation review.</p> <p><b>Overview of progress:</b> All 16 actions have now been completed.</p> <p>Progress was managed via the new Tenant Engagement Framework 2022-25 Action Plan and reported to the Housing Involvement Panel.</p>				
		<p>Theme 1: Governance and Transparency</p>	<p>April 2024</p>	<p>n/a</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
		<p>Theme 3: Business and Strategy</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>n/a</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
		<p>Theme 4: Complaints</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>n/a</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
		<p>Theme 5: Information and Communication</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>n/a</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
		<p>Theme 6: Resources for Engagement</p>	<p>1 by June 2024</p>	<p>n/a</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Peer Review (Local Government Association)</b></p> <p><i>The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (the RSAB) requested that a peer challenge be undertaken by the Local</i></p>	<p>11-13 July 2023</p>	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pride and commitment in Rotherham</li> <li>• Voices are listened to in Rotherham, but not yet heard at the RSAB</li> <li>• You can go much further on collaboration and constructive challenge</li> <li>• To be an outstanding SAB you need sufficient resources to support it and robust processes to plan and deliver on your strategy</li> <li>• Mainstream the pockets of excellent practice</li> <li>• Celebrate your good work!</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> All of the recommendations that were made by the Peer Review team were grouped into three discussion points/themes at a development day. Theme two is now complete.</p>				

<p><i>Government Association (LGA). The work was commissioned by the Independent Chair on behalf of the RSAB.</i></p>		The RSAB are responsible for monitoring progress.				
		THEME 1: Strengthening the User Voice. Work with partners to establish what user groups are in place.	June 2024	September 2024		<b>In progress and partly delayed</b>  Delayed due to work needed with partners to further develop customer engagement across the Safeguarding Partnership.
		THEME 2: Governance, strengthening board arrangements.	April 2024	n/a		<b>Complete</b>
		THEME 3: Making the best use of data and information.	June 2024	August 2024		<b>In progress and partly delayed</b>  The target date for one of the actions has been revised slightly to allow feedback from development session in July 2024.
<p><b>NEW Adult Social Care Peer Review (Local Government Association)</b></p> <p><i>The peer review was commissioned by ASC to measure preparedness for CQC assurance.</i></p>	December 2023	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Key Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and clear strategic direction</li> <li>• Positive workforce</li> <li>• Senior Leadership Team</li> <li>• Social work and reablement vacancy level – succession planning</li> <li>• Streamline pathways and new models with the focus on the voice and experience of the resident</li> <li>• Communication and feedback loop.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall Progress:</b> Recommendations cover the four thematic CQC assessment areas; Working with People, Providing Support, Ensuring Safety and Leadership. 23 considerations for the service to progress with four completed.</p> <p>The programme of improvement is being driven by the service’s CQC Assurance Board.</p>				
		THEME 1: Working with People	December 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		THEME 2: Providing Support	December 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and partly delayed</b>  Progressing but the deadline may need to be extended.
		THEME 3: Ensuring Safety	July 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and partly delayed</b>  Progressing but the deadline may need to be extended.
		THEME 4: Leadership	September 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>

<b>Regeneration and Environment</b>						
<b>QUEST FOUNDATION Review</b>  <i>The Quest Foundation Review (QFR) provides a scored and benchmarked insight into real-life, 'live' customer service experiences.</i>	January 2023	<b>Overall outcome:</b> Learning from the review included consideration of website information, answering of phones and social media information.  Three areas for improvement were identified and all now complete.  Places Leisure acted upon the findings.				
		The need for information on Places Leisure website relating to transgender use of changing facilities.	To be reviewed November 2023	July 2024		<b>Complete</b>
<b>NEW 2024 Prevent Duty Annual Assurance Assessment (Home Office)</b>  <i>To support local authorities in meeting the Prevent duty and to assure the local delivery of Prevent, the Home Office (Homeland Security Group) carries out an annual assurance process.</i>	March 2024	<b>Overall outcome:</b> "Exceeding" across all 8 benchmark criteria. Four recommendations made.				
		Recommendation 1: The Risk Assessment could be assessed on a quarterly basis with partners. Work could be done on creation of a situational risk assessment that is directly tailored to the needs of frontline staff to keep them well informed of the risk and threat in the area.	September 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		Recommendation 2: The local authority should consider updating any terms of reference or standing agendas at Silver to recognise the need to identify and disrupt the influence of groups and individuals that could create a permissive environment. More communication should be afforded to private sector companies such as sharing	December 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>

		venue hire best practice to reduce permissive environments across the region.				
		Recommendation 3: The local authority could look to expand its communications and engagement to the harder to reach communities in the local area, with enhanced engagement through roundtables, community events and the use of social media.	September 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		Recommendation 4: Share these outcomes with your local Prevent governance group e.g. a Prevent Delivery Group (PDG), with a view to including any actions resulting from this process in your Partnership Plan and report the outcome from this process with your local strategic governance group e.g. CSP.	June 2024	n/a		<b>Complete</b>
<b>DVSA MOT Vehicle Testing Station Site Review (DVSA)</b>	March 2024	<b>Overall outcome:</b> Satisfactory rating and two recommendations made which are now complete.				
<i>Check conformity with standards expected by the DVSA – unannounced and periodic.</i>		Training logs are incomplete all CPD training logs to be updated and made available when required.	April 2024	n/a		<b>Complete</b>
		Annual assessments try to complete before the end of December.	December 2024	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
<b>Finance and Customer Services</b>						
<b>Customer Service – LGA Peer Review</b>	October 2022	<b>Overall outcome:</b> findings stated the Council has a vision to provide improved customer access and experience. The aim is that whatever part of the Council a resident or customer contacts, they receive the same standard of service. There have been some				

<p><b>(Local Government Association)</b></p> <p><i>LGA conducted a peer review of Customer Services. The Council requested the review to assess progress against the outcomes set out in the Council Plan and suggest any improvement opportunities based on experience and knowledge of best practice in other authorities.</i></p>		<p>corporate changes to working patterns, systems, and processes to achieve this vision. It appears to the peer team that it is heading in the right direction, but that there is more work to do to ensure that everyone is bought into the improved customer access and experience approach.</p> <p>There were 27 improvement actions to deliver each of the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> All recommendations are now complete. The Strategic Customer Experience Board was as responsible for overseeing implementation of the improvement actions.</p>					
<p><b>2021/22 Value for Money Arrangements (Grant Thornton)</b></p> <p><i>Annual audit of the 2021-2022 Value for Money Arrangements conducted by Grant Thornton.</i></p>	<p>March 2023</p>	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> findings noted the Council's improvement journey and commented that the Council's financial position is strengthening, albeit the level of useable reserves in proportion to the Council's spend being lower than most peer authorities. The report identified a small number of improvement recommendations to further enhance finance, governance, and performance arrangements.</p> <p>There were three new recommendations and one follow up recommendation.</p> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> the two remaining recommendations have been closed. Implementation of the recommendations was overseen by the Finance and Customer Services Directorate.</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: Improve internal communication and co-ordination</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>1 action delayed until December 2023</p>		<p><b>Complete</b></p>
		<p>Refine existing arrangements for monitoring the capital programme to ensure the spend programme and timing of capital expenditure remains accurate and supports delivery of the programme and Council Plan. Timely reporting of any significant slippage and delays within the capital programme should be made, together with any</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Closed</p>	<p><b>Close action to avoid reporting twice - part of 2022-23 VFM arrangements report and included below.</b></p>	

		implications for service delivery and council taxpayers arising from this, and actions to be taken to address the issues.				
		Consider streamlining KPI performance report to provide a more summarised and integrated performance, finance and risk reporting. The Council should consider reducing the volume of KPIs and targets to a manageable level to assist in clearer reporting of actions for any KPIs/targets not delivering.	April 2025	n/a	Closed	<b>No action required at this time.</b>
<b>NEW 2022/23 Value for Money Arrangements (Grant Thornton)</b>  <i>Annual audit of the 2022-2023 Value for Money Arrangements conducted by Grant Thornton.</i>	March 2024	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Positive outcome and no areas of significant weakness identified. Grant Thornton satisfied that adequate arrangements are in place for SEND and the recommendation was removed. Findings noted the Council's improvement journey and commented that the Council's financial position is strengthening, though referenced that the Local Authority financial environment remains challenging with a number of Local Authorities issuing S114 notices. The report identified a small number of improvement recommendations to further enhance finance, governance, and performance arrangements.</p> <p>There were four new recommendations and two follow up recommendations.</p> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> the two follow up recommendations are now complete. Progress is overseen by the Finance and Customer Services Directorate.</p>				
		<b>Financial sustainability</b>  Rec 1: When Capital Budget Programme is updated, recommend Council continues to report the initially approved Capital Budget Programme amount alongside the revised number in the quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports (FMR) – in order that stakeholders can track the changes from the original	March 2025	September 2024		<b>In progress and on track</b>



		Programme approved by Members.				
		<b>Financial sustainability</b>  Rec 2: When transfer and virements of budgets between directorates occurring during financial year, the Financial Monitoring Reports (FMR) should include the initially approved budget for relevant directorates, and the reason for the transfer, alongside the revised position.	March 2025	September 2024		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		<b>Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness:</b>  Rec 1 Develop an operational plan with clear roles and responsibilities to implement the key changes and developments arising from the new procurement legislation (The Procurement Act 2023)	March 2025	August 2024		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		<b>Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness:</b>  Rec 2 Set out the key actions and challenges in achieving net zero in 2030 and update the Corporate Strategic Risk Register accordingly on a timely basis.	March 2025	July 2024		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		<b>Follow up recommendation from 2021-22 audit:</b>	Grant Thornton have moved	n/a		<b>Complete</b>

		Refine existing arrangements for monitoring the capital programme to ensure the spend programme and timing of capital expenditure remains accurate and supports delivery of the programme and Council Plan - Further actions included complete review of capital project governance and reporting. To follow up further in 2023-24 VFM work.	this to a watching brief and aren't tracking as a formal recommendation.		
		<b>Follow up recommendation from 2021-22 audit:</b>  Following on from the Ofsted and CQC SEND inspection, the Council should have a clear Written Statement of Action (WSOA), a clear action plan for implementation and formal monitoring and challenge by the Improving Lives Select Committee – Further actions include will remain a watching brief as part of 2023-24 VFM work to ensure progress being maintained.	Grant Thornton have moved this to a watching brief and aren't tracking as a formal recommendation.	n/a	<b>Complete</b>

**Assistant Chief Executive's directorate**

<b>Equality Framework for Local Government - Rotherham Council Informal Peer Challenge (Doncaster Council)</b>	March – April 2022.  Findings received	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Peer team agreed with the Council's Self-assessment (Suggested developing level) and acknowledged that the Council provided the required level of information and documentation to evidence this.</p> <p>Stated the Council appear to be aware of their current position and have detailed activity planned to gain an 'Excellent' rating.</p> <p>22 suggestions for consideration around four themes.</p> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> The comments from the informal peer challenge have been shared with the Corporate Equality, Diversity, and</p>
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<p><i>Informal, desktop peer assessment of the Council's progress judged against the KLOEs of the Equality Framework for Local Government by Doncaster Council.</i></p>	May 2022.	<p>Inclusion (EDI) Steering Group and many are already addressed within the published action plan. This year's annual EDI report is due to be presented to Cabinet in July 2024, which provides an update on the progress towards gaining an 'Excellent' rating in 2025 and reaching 'Achieving' in 2024. Accompanying the Annual Report is the EDI Action Plan that sets out the activity that the Council will undertake over the next 12 months to continue to make progress on this agenda. The suggestions made through the informal peer challenge process have now been embedded within the EDI Action Plan. Progress against the delivery of this Action Plan will be publicly monitored through the Annual Report process.</p> <p>Implementation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan is overseen by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group and the Council's Big Hearts, Big Changes transformation programme.</p>				
		Theme 1: Understanding and Working with your Communities	June 2025	n/a	Closed	<b>Closed as actions embedded within the EDI Action Plan 2024-25 and reported on via the annual report.</b>
		Theme 2: Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment	June 2025	n/a	Closed	<b>Closed as actions embedded within the EDI Action Plan 2024-25 and reported on via the annual report.</b>
		Theme 3: Responsive Services and Customer Care	June 2025	n/a	Closed	<b>Closed as actions embedded within the EDI Action Plan 2024-25 and reported on via the annual report.</b>
		Theme 4: Diverse and Engaged Workforce	June 2025	n/a	Closed	<b>Closed as actions embedded within the EDI Action Plan 2024-25 and reported on via the annual report.</b>
<p><b>LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (Local Government Association)</b></p> <p><i>Expectation that councils receive a peer review every five years to provide robust, strategic, and credible challenge, whilst also enhancing capacity and helping to avoid insularity.</i></p>	<p><b>Overall outcome:</b> Positive feedback received which stated: "Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council serves the town well and is today an impressive organisation. Being named the 'Most Improved Council' in the country at the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Award in 2022 provides ample evidence that it is now in a very good place. It is ambitious and has well-established and robust foundations, along with several notable and commendable practices that other councils can learn from" and seven recommendations made.</p> <p><b>Overall progress:</b> Action plan agreed by Cabinet in September 2023 included 20 actions which are being progressed. Progress is overseen by the Strategic Leadership Team and where relevant, actions for 2024-25 have been included in the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan.</p>					
	5 – 8 June 2023	Recommendation 1: Celebrate the council's achievements!	March 2024	n/a		<b>Complete</b>
		Recommendation 2: Develop an externally facing compelling and positive narrative of place which will help to promote and market the borough and capitalise on Rotherham's assets.	March 2025	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>

		Recommendation 3: Use the significant investments underway to expand and attract private sector investment at scale, maximising its potential and supporting a more inclusive economic future.	March 2026	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		Recommendation 4: Develop effective pathways and mechanisms for local people, especially young people, to benefit from inclusive growth that can help to deliver improved health outcomes and address inequalities.	March 2025	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		Recommendation 5: Review performance management with a focus on demonstrating impact and an improvement in outcomes in delivering the council's ambition; and use the strong leadership, capacity and capability of the top-team to drive and deliver further organisational transformations and change across the borough at pace.	March 2025	n/a		<b>In progress and on track</b>
		Recommendation 6: Building on the Neighbourhood working model, develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working across the public sector and increase the pace of digital transformation across the organisation to deliver improved outcomes for	March 2024	March 2025		<b>In progress and on track</b>  Delayed as the following action has a revised target date of March 2025. <i>Develop a clear vision and work programme for integrated locality working under the Thriving Neighbourhoods workstream, in line with the ambitions set out in the Council Plan and Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.</i>

		residents and consistently improve the customer experience.				
		Recommendation 7: Continue to keep the medium-term financial strategy under review - testing assumptions and undertaking sensitivity analysis – and continue to report to Members on a regular basis.	February 2024	n/a		<b>Complete</b>

### Status key

Complete	Recommendations/areas for improvement are fully complete
In progress and on track	Recommendation/area for improvement on track to be delivered by the original agreed deadline
In progress and partly delayed	Recommendation/area for improvement progressing, however target date behind the original agreed deadline
Significant delay	Recommendations/area for improvement delayed by more than twelve months past the original agreed deadline
No action required or outcome unknown	No recommendation/area for improvement, or the outcome is not yet known

### Residential Children’s Homes – Inspection Outcomes

Residential children’s homes are inspected by HMI Ofsted under the Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) and focus on evaluating the impact of care and support on the experiences and progress of children.

Following inspection, the children’s home will receive an overall judgement based on the experiences and progress of children and young people, of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement to be Good, or Inadequate.

Where requirements or recommendations are made, an action plan is developed which is submitted to Ofsted detailing the progress.

The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations stipulates the requirement for monthly oversight visits to Children's Homes. These visits, known as Regulation 44 Visits, are carried out under [Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2015](#). All residential children’s homes in Rotherham receive an Independent Reg

44 visit monthly, undertaken by an Independent Person from NYAS (an independent children’s rights charity). The registered Person from National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) seeks independent scrutiny of the home and makes best use of information to ensure continuous improvement, this includes independent oversight of any requirements or recommendations following a previous visit and/ or inspection. Ofsted reviews the content of Regulation 44 reports to inform the next inspection and uses the information to decide if we need to take any other action.

All Ofsted reports are published in the public domain, however the identity (location) of the homes remain confidential and are not disclosed in the reports. Recommendations and progress against recommendations are considered monthly with oversight from the Reg 44 visits and Ofsted. This is more frequent than the Audit Committee schedule and therefore any recommendations and progress against these are not included within this reports as they would be out of date before they were published. Note - Liberty House has recently been re inspected, however the outcome of these inspection was unknown at the time of writing this report.

The following table provides the current ratings for our four registered children’s homes.

Residential Children’s Home	Liberty House	Quarry House	Pegasus House	Beech Tree Lodge
	037521	2662265	2597567	2629335
Date of Full Inspection	17 January 2024	3 May 2023	24 April 2024	30 October 2023
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Requires Improvement to be good	Good	Requires improvement to be good	Good
<b>Sub judgements</b>				
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Requires Improvement to be good	Good	Requires improvement to be good	Good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Requires Improvement to be good	Good	Requires improvement to be good	Requires improvement to be good