

Appendix 1 - External inspections, reviews and audits recommendations/areas for improvement updates – December 2024

Title and purpose	Date	Outstanding recommendations	Original target date for completion	Revised target date for completion	Status	Progress update
Children and Young People's Services						
<p>Care Leavers Peer Review (Local Government Association)</p> <p><i>Purpose: To review the arrangements for children in care and care leavers.</i></p>	March 2024	<p>Overall outcome: The peer review team found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commitment of senior leaders and staff was clear with high levels of passion and determination to meet the needs and improve outcomes for care leavers Clear examples of services making a real difference to the lived experience of care leavers. <p>Five areas for improvement were identified.</p> <p>Overall progress: All areas for improvement are now complete and awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed down by the Directorate Leadership Team for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS).</p>				
		<p>Area for improvement 1: Develop a dedicated Leaving Care Strategy and update the Sufficiency Strategy to create a SMART delivery plan.</p>	November 2024	n/a		<p>Complete</p> <p>Awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed.</p>
		<p>Area for improvement 2: Improve the quality of pathway plans.</p>	September 2024	n/a		<p>Complete</p> <p>Awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed.</p>
		<p>Area for improvement 3: Improve the effectiveness of engagement with care leavers.</p>	October 2024	n/a		<p>Complete</p> <p>Awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed.</p>
		<p>Area for improvement 4: Consider the development of an integrated performance data dashboard.</p>	September 2024	n/a		<p>Complete</p> <p>Awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed.</p>

		Area for improvement 5: Review the membership of the Corporate Parenting Partnership.	September 2024	n/a		Complete Awaiting final approval at the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel before closed.
Ofsted Focused Visit <i>To review the arrangements for children in need or subject to a child protection plan.</i> <i>Usually undertaken every three years as part of the Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Inspection Programme.</i>	Focused visit: 14 and 15 May 2024 Published: 12 July 2024	Overall outcome: The review found the response to children who are subject to child-in-need and child protection planning is very effective. A stable senior leadership team is unstinting in its determination to make children in Rotherham safer and improve their outcomes. Strong corporate support ensures a whole-council approach to understanding children's vulnerability and responding to risk and need. Four areas for improvement were identified. Overall progress: An action plan is in place to address the recommendations from the peer review. Progress is overseen by the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel and Directorate Leadership Team. An action plan to address the four areas for improvement is ongoing and remains on track to be completed by the target end dates set.				
		Area for improvement 1: Identify children's unique needs and characteristics to better inform their plans and how they will be helped and supported. And Area for improvement 4: Reduce length of children's plans as these are overly long.	October 2024	March 2025		In progress and on track <i>Note: The progress updates for areas for improvements 1 and 4 have been combined as these are closely linked.</i>
		Area for improvement 2: Reduce Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting lists.	December 2025	n/a		In progress and on track
		Area for improvement 3: Reduce waits for domestic abuse services.	December 2024	n/a		In progress and on track
		Overall outcome: The inspection found the local area partnership's special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed. The next full area SEND inspection will be within approximately five years. Ofsted and the Care				
NEW Ofsted Area SEND inspection of	Inspection date: 30 September					

Rotherham Local Area Partnership <i>To review the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) arrangements.</i>	2024 - 4 October 2024 Report published: 14 November 2024	Quality Commission ask that the local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report. Two areas for improvement were identified. Overall progress: The final report and recommendations from the inspection were published on the 14 November 2024. As recognised in the report, work was already ongoing prior to the inspection in relation to the two areas for improvement and this will continue. Progress will be monitored by the local area SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership Board and overseen by the Children and Young People's Evidence Challenge Panel and SEND Executive Board.				
		Area for improvement 1: continue to improve the quality of EHC plans. This is to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is consistent and clear information from health, education and social care • All EHC plans reflect the views of children, young people and their families • EHC plans contain the support that the child or young person needs to prepare for adulthood; and • All outcomes include detail and are measurable so that children and young people receive consistent support. 	TBC	n/a		Awaiting start
		Area for improvement 2: Continue to strengthen work to reduce long waits for neurodevelopmental assessment pathways. In addition, intensify service improvements for occupational therapy and	TBC			Awaiting start

		speech and language therapy at a universal and targeted level to reduce waiting times. This will ensure that children and young people receive support at the right time.					
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health							
Safeguarding Peer Review (Local Government Association) <i>The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (the RSAB) requested that a peer challenge be undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA). The work was commissioned by the Independent Chair on behalf of the RSAB.</i>	11-13 July 2023	Overall outcome: Key Messages included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride and commitment in Rotherham • Voices are listened to in Rotherham, but not yet heard at the RSAB • You can go much further on collaboration and constructive challenge • To be an outstanding SAB you need sufficient resources to support it and robust processes to plan and deliver on your strategy • Mainstream the pockets of excellent practice • Celebrate your good work! 					
		Overall progress: All of the recommendations that were made by the Peer Review team were grouped into three discussion points/themes at a development day. Themes two and three are now complete.					
		The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board 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 December 2024	
		THEME 3: Making the best use of data and information.	June 2024	August 2024		Complete	
Adult Social Care Peer Review (Local Government Association) <i>The peer review was commissioned by ASC to measure</i>	December 2023	Overall outcome: Key Messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong and clear strategic direction • Positive workforce • Senior Leadership Team • Social work and reablement vacancy level – succession planning • Streamline pathways and new models with the focus on the voice and experience of the resident • Communication and feedback loop. 					

<p><i>preparedness for CQC assurance.</i></p>		<p>Overall Progress: Recommendations cover the 4 thematic CQC assessment areas; Working with People, Providing Support, Ensuring Safety and Leadership. 23 considerations for the service to progress with 14 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		In progress and on track
		THEME 2: Providing Support	December 2024	n/a		In progress and on track
		THEME 3: Ensuring Safety	July 2024	November 2024		Complete
		THEME 4: Leadership	September 2024	n/a		Complete
<p>NEW Public Health Peer Review</p> <p><i>Voluntary Sector Led Improvement across Public Health teams in the Yorkshire and Humber.</i></p>	<p>Conducted: 8-10 October 2024</p>	<p>Overall outcome: Positive feedback received. key messages included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honesty, openness, and willingness has enabled us to hear from a breadth of people The public health team is incredibly well respected, knows itself and adds value Determination of partners to rebuild over the last ten years and the positive impact this has had on the strength of partnership working and governance The Children's Capital of Culture is a fantastic example of how sharing power with children and young people is re-building trust and impacting health and wellbeing Public health is effectively embedded in the wider health system and the wider health system is fully engaged in the health and wellbeing board on delivering the strategy. <p>Presentation provided on 10 October 2024 which included four recommendations.</p> <p>Overall progress: Dissemination has started. Discussed at Public Health Senior Management Team Planning Day on 14 November 2024 and presented to Health Select Committee in November 2024. All recommendations are in progress and on track.</p>				
<p>Recommendation 1: In the health and wellbeing strategy refresh, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on outcomes Priorities informed by intelligence and engagement 	March 2025	n/a		In progress and on track		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider population groups as well as geographical areas. 				
		<p>Recommendation 2: Go further as positive disrupters and help to maximise the impact that the cultural, physical and economic regeneration has on the health and wellbeing of the population.</p>	January 2025	n/a		In progress and on track
		<p>Recommendation 3: Public Health Team to reflect on how it interfaces and influences with both seldom heard communities (including those with protected characteristics), and communities of place, in how it addresses health inequalities. This may include looking for best practice outside the Borough, as well as holding reflective joint workshops with internal and external partners to empower these communities.</p>	January 2025	n/a		In progress and on track
		<p>Recommendation 4: Look at further opportunities to build capability within the rest of the council to maximise the impact on health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>	January 2025	n/a		In progress and on track
Regeneration and Environment						
	March 2024	Overall outcome: "Exceeding" across all 8 benchmark criteria. Four recommendations made.				

<p>2024 Prevent Duty Annual Assurance Assessment (Home Office)</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Overall progress: Three recommendations are now complete and one remains on track.</p>				
	<p>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.</p>	September 2024	n/a		Complete
	<p>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 venue hire best practice to reduce permissive environments across the region.</p>	December 2024	n/a		In progress and on track
	<p>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</p>	September 2024	n/a		Complete

		through roundtables, community events and the use of social media.				
DVSA MOT Vehicle Testing Station Site Review (DVSA) <i>Check conformity with standards expected by the DVSA – unannounced and periodic.</i>	March 2024	Overall outcome: Satisfactory rating and two recommendations made. Overall progress: The one outstanding recommendation is on track to be complete by December 2024.				
		Annual assessments try to complete before the end of December.	December 2024	n/a		In progress and on track
NEW Sports Ground Safety Authority – Local Authority Audit (Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA)) <i>An audit by the National regulator to assess the Council's delivery of statutory functions under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975. The audits are carried out at a frequency determined by risk assessment.</i>	29 August 2024	Overall outcome: Excellent progress has been made with the recommended actions from the previous audit with all items being completed satisfactorily. The Council was rated as low risk and three recommendations were made. Overall progress: Recommendations one and three have been accepted the one remaining outstanding recommendation will be implemented within the next six months.				
		Recommendation 1: SAG Terms of reference have been produced and are excellent. They were last reviewed in April 2022 so are due to be reviewed again as these should be checked annually and a process introduced to ensure this happens. (review date August 2026).	Review date August 2026	n/a		Complete
		Recommendation 2: A tabletop exercise that included stadium staff and	Review date August 2026	n/a		In progress and on track

		emergency services has not taken place for some time and the LA will ensure this is carried out by the club this season. (review date August 2026)				
		Recommendation 3: The LA will ensure that the Policies and procedures document for the safety certification function, monitoring and enforcement are regularly reviewed on an annual basis and the review is documented.	Review date August 2026	n/a		Complete

Finance and Customer Services

2022/23 VFM arrangements (Grant Thornton) <i>Annual audit of the 2022-2023 Value for Money Arrangements conducted by Grant Thornton.</i>	March 2024	<p>Overall outcome: 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>Overall progress: the two follow up recommendations are now complete. One new recommendation is also complete and three remain in progress. Progress is overseen by the Finance and Customer Services Directorate.</p>				
		Financial sustainability 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	March 2025			In progress and on track

		(FMR) – in order that stakeholders can track the changes from the original Programme approved by Members.				
		Financial sustainability 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			In progress and on track .
		Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: 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		Complete
		Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: 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			In progress and on track

Assistant Chief Executive's directorate

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge

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.

Overall outcome: 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.

Overall progress: 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.

5-8 June 2023	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		In progress and on track
Findings received August 2023	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		In progress and on track
	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		In progress and on track
	Recommendation 5: Review performance management with a focus on demonstrating impact and an improvement in outcomes in delivering the council's	March 2025	n/a		In progress and on track

		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.				
		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 residents and consistently improve the customer experience.	March 2024	March 2025		In progress and on track 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>

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.

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

Residential Children’s Home	037521	2662265	2597567	2629335	2775749	2759142 (Yet to be inspected, only registered on 20/06/24)	Peacock Lodge (Awaiting Ofsted registration)
Date of Full Inspection	11 June 2024	2 July 2024	08 April 2024	06 August 2024	29 July 2024		
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Good	Good	Requires Improvement to be good	Requires Improvement to be good	Good		
Sub judgements							
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Good	Good	Requires Improvement to be good	Requires Improvement to be good	Good		
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Good	Good	Requires Improvement to be good	Requires improvement to be good	Good		