

Public Report with Exempt Appendices  
Audit Committee

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Audit Committee – 17 March 2026

**Report Title**

Children and Young People's Services Directorate Risk Register

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)**

Rob Savage, Strategic Programme Lead, Families First Partnership Programme and  
CYPS Risk Champion

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report provides an update to Audit Committee in relation to the current position of the Children and Young People's Services Directorate Risk Register and risk management activity within the directorate.

**Recommendations**

The Audit Committee is asked to note the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 CYPS Directorate Risk Register 170226 DLT Approved

**Background Papers**

Children and Young People's Services Risk Register report to Audit Committee in  
March 2025

Corporate Strategic Risk Register report to Audit Committee in January 2026

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

Yes

An exemption is sought for Appendix 1 under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains information that refers to the affairs of third parties.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information because failure to do so may result in disclosure of information about the financial or business affairs of Council suppliers and partners.

## Children and Young People's Services Directorate Risk Register

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Directorate Risk Register was last presented to Audit Committee in March 2025
- 1.2 The CYPS Directorate Risk Register as of 17 February 2026 has five risk items listed (Appendix 1)
- 1.3 One of the CYPS directorate risks also features on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register, which was last reviewed on 08 December 2025 and presented to Audit Committee on 13 January 2026 this is referenced below:

#### **CYPS-01 and SLT-01**

**Business Objective** - Keeping Children, Young People and families safe from harm

**Risk Detail:** Failure to keep children and young people safe e.g. Children and Young People at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of abuse, neglect and Criminal Exploitation.

- 1.4 A further CYPS risk is consolidated in the Corporate Strategic Risk Register, as a council wide risk, with CYPS holding the directorate narrative in its own register.

#### **CYPS-02 and SLT-16 (CS-01)**

##### **CYPS-02**

**Business Objective** - CYPS to achieve budgetary savings linked to Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and to meet conditions set by all external funding streams

**Risk Detail** - CYPS failing to deliver services within budget.

##### **SLT-16 (CS-01)**

**Business Objective** - Maintaining a balanced budget and medium-term financial strategy that enables the continued delivery of core Council services and ensures the ongoing financial resilience of the Council

**Risk Detail:** Directorates failing to deliver services within budget due to rising demand, complexity or control. Failure to delivery Budget savings programmes.

Finance Settlements from Government being inadequate to meet service costs and demand increases. Economic factors impacting negatively on business rates and council tax income. Economic factors impacting the Council's Treasury Management strategies in such a way that is out of the Council's control.

## 2. CYPS Risk Management

2.1 CYPS is made up of four key service areas, each with a Service Director lead reporting into the Executive Director, these are;

- Childrens Social Care;
- Family Help;
- Education and Inclusion;
- Commissioning, Performance and Quality.

The composite of Executive and Service Directors make up the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT), along with key officers from Finance, Human Resources and Corporate Communications.

2.2 There is an identified CYPS Risk Champion and deputy who continue to form part of a corporate network, alongside other officers' responsible for risk management across the Council, this allows for good practice to be shared and co-working on key strategic risks to be facilitated.

2.3 CYPS directorate risks are discussed and reviewed at the CYPS Assurance Board Meeting, which is scheduled on a quarterly basis, with escalations (red and amber rated risks) reviewed outside of this reporting cycle by CYPS DLT during their weekly meeting, by exception.

The CYPS Executive Director takes ownership of the directorate risk management arrangements and where required will meet with the CYPS Risk Champion to provide additional decision or direction, should the aforementioned meetings not take place within a period of time required to mitigate.

2.4 Each Service Director within CYPS is accountable for managing a Service Risk Register which is formally monitored and reviewed with their Senior Managers on a monthly basis.

Each Service Risk Register is derived from key risks within operational areas following escalation from a Head of Service, these could be linked to a number of service delivery objectives such as transformation projects, service plans or outcomes from external inspections.

Escalations are made from Service level to the Directorate level at the discretion of a CYPS Service Director.

In the event a risk reviewed by CYPS Assurance Board (Directorate level) needs escalating this will be progressed by the CYPS Executive Director to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) for consideration.

2.5 The infographic below illustrates the four distinct levels of risk management within the CYPS directorate, this working model allows for escalation and de-escalation of risk as required.

In addition to the movement and management of risk within CYPS, there may be occasions where the responsibility for managing a risk is within another directorate, any movement will be negotiated between either directorate Risk Champions or Service Directors.

Risk Registers are published on the Council’s intranet at regular intervals by the CYPS Risk Champion.



- 2.6 As part of the corporate programme to embed risk management into the culture of the Council, all managers from CYPS are required to attend the mandatory ‘Risk Management Training for Managers’ workshops. New managers are invited to attend workshops as soon as possible after commencement in role.

The CYPS Risk Champion monitors the completion of the mandatory Risk Management training within the CYPS workforce alongside colleagues in Organisational Development. Managers in CYPS follow up non-completion of training through one to one discussions, which form part of My Year Ahead Plan reviews throughout the year.

- 2.7 The CYPS Directorate Risk Register, dated 17 February 2026 is aligned to the Council Plan 2025-30, Year Ahead Delivery Plan and all CYPS Service Plans.

2.8 CYPS risk items which have changed since the last Audit Committee review of the CYPS Directorate Risk Register, completed in March 2025 include;

Risk No.	Business Objective	Risk Detail	Change Since last report
<b>CYPS-02</b>	CYPS to achieve budgetary savings linked to Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)  CYPS to meet conditions set by all external funding streams	CYPS failing to deliver services within budget.	Risk rescored and improved position reported
<b>CYPS-06</b>	Deliver In House Children's Home Residential Programme	The children's homes identified for opening are not completed within time and budget agreed, or there is a delay or insufficiency in recruitment to statutory roles to mobilise	Risk rescored and improved position reported
<b>CYPS-07</b>	Ensure effective delivery of the SEND Sufficiency Programme in Rotherham	Demand outweighs available SEND school places  Continuing demand for Independent Specialist Provision (ISP)	Refreshed wording – Safety Value superseded by SEND Sufficiency
<b>CYPS-10</b>	To successfully implement the new Education and Early Years system (EYES), including the migration of data held in a number of other key business systems	The implementation deadline is not achieved	New risk

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The Audit Committee is asked to note the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the CYPS directorate and comment as required.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register is reviewed quarterly by SLT, with the CYPS Directorate Risk Register also being reviewed quarterly at CYPS Assurance Board meetings.

A strategic Risk Champions Forum is in place, with representation from the CYPS Risk Champion, at which directorate updates are presented and discussed with counterparts.

**5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any financial and/or procurement implications at the point of decision making to mitigate risks.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any legal implications

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any Human Resources implications

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The CYPS risk register is focussed on managing risks to improve outcomes for children and young people and promoting every child is able to achieve, working with Rotherham's children, young people and families to be resilient, successful and safe.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 There are no direct Equalities and Human Rights Advice implications arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any Equalities and Human Rights Advice implications

## **11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no direct CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change implications arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change implications

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 There are no direct implication for Partners arising from this report.

Any actions taken by the CYPS directorate or Council in response to risks identified will consider any Partner implications

### **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The CYPS Directorate Risk Register 170226 DLT Approved (Appendix 1) details the directorate level risks and mitigations.

### **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

- 14.1 Nicola Curley, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services  
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