

Improving Lives Select Commission Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on 8 September 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:-

Improving Lives held its meeting on 21 July 2026 with one agenda item considered as part of the pre-scrutiny process:-

- **Rotherham Local SEND Reform Plan System Transformation Update – Pre-Decision**

This report provided an opportunity for Improving Lives to consider the content prior to the updated report being formally submitted to Cabinet for approval.

The Commission, therefore considered Rotherham's Draft SEND Reform Plan and ambition of the Vision and Priorities and approved ongoing scrutiny of plan delivery and impact.

Due to the plan pending approval by the DfE, the presentation and plan were exempt from the press and public and the discussion taken in closed session.

The Select Commission welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise this important work at an early stage and to consider the proposed transformation of SEND services in Rotherham.

Members welcomed the ambition of the plan and the significant work undertaken with the Department for Education, partners, schools, academy trusts, parents and carers to develop a more inclusive, sustainable and effective SEND system.

The Commission noted the commitment to increasing local provision, strengthening early intervention, improving inclusion within mainstream school and reducing reliance on out-of-area placements.

The Commission recognised that the SEND reforms presented a significant opportunity to improve outcomes for children and young people but acknowledged the scale of change and the challenges associated with increasing demand, workforce pressures and maintaining parental confidence during implementation.

In addition, the Commission whilst considering the detail of the draft SEND Plan, welcomed the invitation to continue monitoring performance and impact of the Local SEND Reform Plan and, therefore, welcomed this being brought back to the Commission following implementation early in the new municipal year.

Work Programme 2026-27:-

Any additional items, training sessions and upcoming review suggestions would be included as part of the new work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year as and when they were proposed.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:-**15 September 2026**

- CYPS Performance Annual Outturn Report
- Update on Family Hubs Performance