

Health Select Commission (HSC) Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) meeting on 7 October 2026

Items covered since the last meeting:

At the HSC meeting on 24 September 2026 the following items were considered:

1. Physical Activity for Health (Sport England Main Bid and progress update)

The Commission undertook detailed scrutiny of the learning from the Sport England development phase, challenging officers on how the programme would reach the least active residents, address health inequalities, overcome barriers such as cost, transport, accessibility and language, and demonstrate measurable outcomes and long term sustainability.

Members tested the robustness of the evidence base, questioned how success would be evaluated, explored the targeting of deprived communities, children and young people and residents with long term health conditions, and sought assurance that community engagement, communications and partnership working would deliver tangible behavioural change rather than short term activity.

Through its scrutiny, the Commission secured stronger accountability arrangements by requesting clear performance metrics linked to reducing health inequalities and improving population health, regular progress reporting, mechanisms to keep ward members informed of activity within their communities, and a further mid programme review of impact, thereby adding value by strengthening governance, transparency, local member involvement and the focus on demonstrating outcomes from the significant external investment proposed through the Sport England bid.

The following recommendations were agreed during the meeting:

That the Health Select Commission:

1. Notes the contents of the presentation received.
2. Requests that the Health Select Commission be provided with the detail of any metrics agreed upon against which progress or success will be measured, clearly identifying how those metrics support tackling health inequalities and general population health, along with progress reports in line with those metrics at relevant intervals.
3. Requests that a mechanism via which Elected Members can be updated on the activities being undertaken in their wards connected with the programme and its associated funding so that they can support raising awareness in their local communities, alongside the wider communications and marketing strategy, be agreed and implemented.

4. Agreed that a further update on the progress and impact of the programme be provided at the halfway point of the strategy, in late 2028.

2. Primary Care Network Development

The Commission scrutinised the proposed transfer of responsibility for national screening and immunisation programmes from NHS England to the new Office for Pan-ICB Commissioning (OPIC) and the implications for local service delivery, accountability and public health outcomes in Rotherham.

Members challenged officers on the risks associated with the transition, workforce capacity, declining uptake in some vaccination cohorts, barriers affecting vulnerable and under-vaccinated communities, the effectiveness of outreach and community pharmacy delivery models, and the impact and value of the local childhood immunisation Pathfinder programme. The Commission also explored how local needs and health inequalities would continue to influence commissioning decisions within the new arrangements and sought assurance that performance would not deteriorate during organisational change.

Through its scrutiny, the Commission strengthened oversight by requesting regular local vaccination performance reporting benchmarked against national trends and a future evaluation of the Pathfinder programme, thereby adding value through enhanced transparency, stronger performance monitoring and increased assurance that immunisation services remain effective, equitable and responsive to local health needs during a significant system-wide transition.

The following recommendations were agreed during the meeting:

That the Health Select Commission:

1. Notes the contents of the presentation received.
2. Requests that local performance reports in relation to vaccination uptake be provided to the Commission at appropriate intervals to facilitate ongoing monitoring of support offered to wards, schools and GP practices. These reports should include benchmarking against national vaccination uptake data to enable comparison of local performance with national trends. Delivery method and timeline TBC.
3. Requests an update at an appropriate stage on the overall impact of the Pathfinder programme in Rotherham. Delivery method and timeline TBC.

Work programme 2025-26 updates:

- **Health Select Commission Work Programme**

The Health Select Commission has approved its work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year. There are currently no vacant slots remaining.

- **Reviews**

On 26 August 2026, the Health Select Commission met to consider a number of topics and undertake scoping, scoring and prioritising. The following topics were identified to be progressed in the following order:

1. Life Saving Equipment in Rotherham - Understanding the Distribution, Accessibility, Serviceability, Public Awareness and Impact of Defibrillators, Bleed Control Kits and Water Safety Equipment in the Borough
2. Caring with Empathy, Dying with Dignity - The End of Life Experience in Rotherham

Work to progress these reviews is ongoing.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the HSC meeting on 19 November 2026 the following items are due to be considered:

- Place Partners Winter Plan 26/27
- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Delivery Update
- Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report