

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**9th July, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Gilding, J. Hamilton, Jack, P. A. Russell, Steele, Swift and Whysall.

Also in attendance was Councillor Fenoughty for item 27 (Scrutiny Review – Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) and Councillors G. A. Russell.

**24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**25. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.**

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

**26. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES**

Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement Manager and Maxine Phillips, Advice Project Co-ordinator , VAR, presented the submitted report informing and updating the Committee on the review of community legal advice services which had been conducted by a multi-agency partnership.

An action plan had been developed with the following key tasks:

- to define clearly what constituted legal advice and to separate (non legal) advocacy and general non legal advice
- to clarify the available realisable funding to allocate to legal advice in the borough
- to improve cross agency referrals
- to improve public awareness of how to access services through the compilation of a directory of advice services
- to establish a new 'model' for delivering advice services in the borough
- to establish a common client recording system to determine accurately volume and complexity levels of advice being delivered by agencies

- to adopt a common quality assurance framework

Also submitted was the proposed response to the scrutiny review recommendations at the time.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- advice sector core funding from RMBC of £590,000
- single common assurance system
- budgetary/ resource position
- significant unused demand for advice and anticipated increase of such
- referrals
- monitoring and review of service provision and processes
- support for the use of electronic systems
- need to factor in training/ learning to the public launch
- mapping to avoid duplication of service
- reference to the 'shelved' debt advice review and the debt recovery review
- hard to reach groups
- efficiency of smaller agencies
- use of volunteers
- reporting arrangements

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the report was to be considered by the Rotherham Partnership Chief Executives' Group.

(3) That learning/ training issues be referred to the Members' Training and Development Panel.

(4) That a progress report be submitted in six months.

**27. SCRUTINY REVIEW – PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE)**

Councillor Fenoughty presented the submitted report which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE).

The review was received by the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 9th April, 2010. The review document was submitted.

Highlighted were the background to, and rationale for, the review, membership, scope, terms of reference and recommendations.

The report covered:-

- review framework
- background information :
  - What is PSHE?
  - Why is PSHE important?
  - The national picture
  - The Healthy Schools Programme
- Where are we in Rotherham? :
  - Healthy Schools status in Rotherham
  - Approaches to teaching PSHE (September, 2009)
  - Curriculum space
  - PSHE staff support
  - Resources
- Overview of Meetings and Consultation
- Summary of key issues
- Recommendations

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

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- Curriculum space and vying for timetable slots
- not only need to avoid repetition but also ensure that the content was relevant to the year group
- schools did not always know the needs and concerns of the local community and awareness process should be considered
- success of the recommendations dependant on schools and governing bodies taking them on board
- concerns that monitoring by the Youth Cabinet at Rotherham Show may not be sufficient
- views of school councils should be sought

Resolved:- (1) That, along with the views now discussed, the review, together with the findings and recommendations, be supported.

(2) That the review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and response within two months.

(3) That Cabinet's response be fed back to this Committee and the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel.

## 28. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

## 29. WORK IN PROGRESS

(a) Councillor Whysall reported that the meeting day of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had changed from Friday to Wednesday and that the format of the meeting had changed to reduce the amount of paperwork.

(b) Councillor Jack reported that yesterday's meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:

- a presentation on the Hospital Aftercare Service
- revenue budget monitoring report
- Assistive technology review update

- patient transport service contract

(c) Caroline Webb reported:

- Cabinet had accepted the recommendations from the Corporate Parenting review
- Scrutiny Annual Report was finalised for presentation to Council on 28th July, 2010
- Cabinet had requested that a short scrutiny review be undertaken of the existing and proposed governance arrangements surrounding the role of the Local Authority and NHS Rotherham in addressing public health issues.

Resolved:- That the review group comprise Councillors Jack, Steele, Whelbourn and Whysall.

### **30. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call in requests.

### **31. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to financial/ business and staffing issues)

### **32. BUDGET UPDATE**

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, gave a slide presentation indicating the impact of known Government resources reductions. The slides identified the reduced/ withdrawn funding levels in respect of the revenue and capital budgets and the resultant residual budget pressure on the revenue and capital budgets.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.