

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>21 January 2011</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Work programme update</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Chief Executive's All wards</b>

### **5. Summary**

The report updates Members on the progress of the work programme for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel for the 2010/11 municipal year.

### **6. Recommendations**

- a. The Panel are asked to discuss the work programme and identify if there are additional issues it wishes to scrutinise or prioritise.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

An outline work programme was agreed by the Scrutiny Panel in June 2010. In line with its remit and Corporate Priorities, the panel agreed to structure its work programme around the broad five Every Child Matters themes and issues arising from the Notice to Improve. However, mindful that the election of the Coalition Government may bring changes to legislation and a shift in policy direction, the Panel agreed that its work programme should be revisited in early 2011. The panel is asked for its views on issues to be considered for the remaining meetings in this municipal year and also to feed in issues to be scrutinised in 2011/12.

7.1 The panel has covered a wide range of issues over the municipal year. To date this as included:

- Youth service provision: proposed review (arising from recommendations from the scrutiny review: Future Challenges for Rotherham Young People's Service)
- Transforming Rotherham Learning (update)
- World Class Primary Schools
- 14-19 strategy
  
- Update on scrutiny reviews:
  - Support for newly arrived children in schools
  - Road safety outside schools
  - Personal, Social, Health and Education
  - Corporate Parenting Arrangements
  - School Closure due to extreme weather (awaiting Cabinet response)
  
- Annual reports
  - Imagination Library - update
  - Comment and Complaints
  - Primary and Lifestyle Survey
  - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
  
- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- Substance misuse
- Child poverty needs assessment
- Update on implementation of early intervention and prevention strategy (including parenting strategy)
- Commissioning of placements for Looked After Children
  
- Regular updates
  - Notice to Improve
  - Updates of action plans emerging from inspection

In addition, Members participated in a Safeguarding training event facilitated by IDeA and NSPCC.

7.2 The Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children requested that the Panel undertake a review into the apparent rise in diagnoses of autism in Rotherham. Initial discussions have taken place and it is intended that the review group reconvenes later in the month.

- 7.3 Within the Panel's health scrutiny role, a small working group has been established to examine the awaited proposals from the England-wide review of Children's Cardiac Surgery Services. The proposals are yet to be published, however if they amount to a 'significant variation' to regional services, the working group have agreed to examine the proposals to establish the potential effect these may have on local services and patient access to the regional centre (currently based at Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust). The working group agreed to participate in a Joint Regional Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise their wider impact. The proposals are expected in February 2011.
- 7.4 There are a number of issues that have been identified by members that have yet to be scheduled. The panel requested that a meeting be held to explore the potential impact of the Education White Paper: *The Importance of Teaching* on schools, the local authority and the wider community. It is proposed that this is scheduled for its March meeting.
- 7.5 Other issues to be scheduled include the Safeguarding Annual Report, Young Carer's Strategy and School Performance.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, although recommendations from reviews or from panel meeting may have financial implications should they be implemented. This would require further exploration by the Senior Leadership Team or relevant body as to the risks or benefits attached to the recommendations.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 9.1 Given the budget pressures faced by the Council, it is essential that Overview and Scrutiny focuses on key priorities.
- 9.2 The work programme is flexible and issues may be referred to the Panel which are not known about at this stage. The work programme therefore, must be realistic in terms of the Panel's capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. If additional items are added, the panel may have to re-prioritise which issues it wishes to scrutinise.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Scrutiny panels have a key role in scrutinising the effectiveness of services. The areas identified for future scrutiny should complement the priorities identified in the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and the Every Child Matters agenda.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

This report has been brought at the request of Cllr Ann Russell

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