

Strategic Leadership Team's Commentary on Scrutiny Review of School closures due to Snow

Scrutiny recommendation	Proposed action/ comment	Target date	Link to Themes/ Strategies	Impact Analysis		SLT recommendation to Cabinet
				Benefit/ Risk	Cost implication <i>Impact on revenue/capital budget, MTFS</i>	
Reissue guidance to schools emphasising the importance of maintaining school opening unless faced by extraordinary circumstances	The guidance on exceptional school closures was fully reviewed and updated following the recommendations and emphasises this point.	Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Achieving	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority confirm with Governing bodies their approach to delivering the statutory 190 days of learning and how schools will make up this time	The guidance on exceptional school closures reflects this requirement. Responsibility for the provision of 190 days statutory learning is delegated to the Head Teacher / Governing Body.	Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority should collate strategies or actions that have or would assist in maintaining a school open status and share with other schools	CYPS / HR are currently in dialogue with unions regarding staff attending a school nearest their home where travel to work is impeded. The guidance on exceptional school closures also advises on other considerations eg later opening etc	Ongoing dialogue via Union / Officer group Completed (Reviewed Termly)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority confirm processes for monitoring and reporting closures including specific circumstances. Data should be used to inform salting routes, continuity planning and communication	Communications Team have developed electronic registering of closure procedures which include justification for closure and are establishing further links to media sources internally and externally	Ongoing development	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	

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Each school should be encouraged to develop business continuity plans to cover extreme weather	Schools have individual emergency plans which cover all the points raised in the recommendations. Plans were introduced in 2007 following the floods via Head Teacher and Chair / Vice Chair of Governors briefings. The template is reviewed annually and reissued and schools are advised to follow suit.	Completed Subject to annual review)	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
CYPS / HR should explore with schools the feasibility of teachers and support staff being redirected to their nearest school to help deal with staffing shortages	CYPS / HR are currently in consultation with Union Officials	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
The Local Authority explore with RBT cost effective text notification or other social networking alternatives available to notify closures	Schools have been made aware of text systems available and costs. Schools are delegated funding including budget for emergency and safety issues. All schools have access to RGFL and are able to develop websites etc	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs will need to be met by individual schools from devolved budgets	
The RMBC school closure webpage is redesigned to capture information from schools and quick links to other relevant pages	Extensive work has been undertaken to improve school reporting and web page information including links to local media. It should be noted that the adverse weather / school closure site Had over 30,000 hits in the Dec 2010 snow period	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	

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Guidance to parents is reissued by schools on a timely basis, incorporating details of updated RMBC website	Schools informed of this requirement via guidance on exceptional school closures, emergency plans and communications. It should be noted that the school	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events	Costs already met within CYPS	
Priority salting routes are reviewed by RMBC and other relevant agencies to accommodate schools wherever possible	Schools were encouraged to report concerns to RMBC during the heavy snow periods of 2010 EDS are responsible for prioritising salting routes	Completed	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		
Schools explore the feasibility of recruiting volunteers to assist site clearance	Schools have explored this recommendation via PTA and other local forums success will vary from community to community	Ongoing	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		
Streetpride explore the feasibility of schools hiring small-plant machinery to clear sites in extreme weather	CYPS identified 2 companies able to assist schools some Head Teachers were able to identify other local companies and shared details with other Heads	Completed	Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		

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Cabinet Member / Strategic Director to write to Minister for Education supporting LGA call for suspension of regulatory targets and appropriate local responses taken during extreme weather events			Rotherham Safe Rotherham Learning	Increase number of schools able to facilitate opening in the event of extreme weather events		