

Strategic Partner Steering Group WELFARE AND BENEFITS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overall Aim of the Welfare and Benefits Strategic Partners Steering Group:

The overall aim of the Steering Group is to facilitate the Partnership and the Local Authority to understand and mitigate the implications of National, Regional and Local policy and regulatory changes which have a social impact upon the housing, welfare and benefits changes.

Membership of the Strategic Partners Steering Group:

There will be a core group of members consisting of:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- RMBC Chief Executive
- RMBC Strategic Director for Resources
- District Manager, Jobcentre Plus (DWP)
- CEO Voluntary Action Rotherham
- Representatives from Health
- Police
- Housing
- Policy & Partnerships Manager (Chair of Welfare & Benefit Operational Task Group)

In addition where specialist knowledge is required the group may request additional attendees on a 'co-opted' basis.

Timing of Meetings:

The **Strategic Partners Steering Group**: shall meet initially on a bi-monthly basis to be reviewed after 6 months.

The **Strategic Partners Steering Group**: will have direct responsibility for approving and monitoring the delivery of the action plan prepared by the Welfare and Benefits Operational Task Group.

Reports on progress of the action plan will come through the Welfare and Benefit Operational Task Group, and will be presented by the Chair / Vice Chair of the Group

Should the Steering Group require 'task and finish' sub groups to undertake work then those groups will meet at convenient periods to enable the results of their work to be reported back to the Welfare and Benefits Steering Group.

The Strategic Partners Steering Group: shall be supported by:

- Corporate lead for Communication and Marketing
- Partnership and Policy Manager

The Strategic Partners Steering Group will support the work of the Task Group by:

- Providing guidance and support to the task group on the priority areas identified for action
- Monitor the delivery of the action plan
- Take the necessary appropriate action on priority areas that require a resource allocation or policy decision
- Act as strategic champions for the work at a National, Regional and Local level

Key Strategic Linkages

Review of the impact of the Welfare Reform Act on the outcomes identified in the following key strategic priorities:

- The Deprived Communities work
- The Early Help Strategy and Think Family initiative
- The Health and Well being strategy

Key Outcomes

To reduce disadvantage in Rotherham by:

- Identifying those most at risk – and provide a targeted approach to ensure support and advice is given to mitigate further poverty and deprivation
- Respond in a collaborative way to support people at risk
- Align strategies to ensure linkages across key priorities are identified and acted upon
- Delivery of the action plan
- Identify policy changes and resource allocation