

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18th July 2012</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Rotherham Development Demonstrator site for Early and Foundation Years</b>
4.	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

### 5. Summary:

Following discussions with the CYPS Leadership Team, Early Years colleagues and the Chief Executive Officer, Martin Kimber, an expression of interest has been put forward to the national Children's Improvement Board (CIB) and the LGA for Rotherham to act as Development Demonstrator site for the Early and Foundation Years.

If successful the programme would start in October 2012 and capture learning from early years provision with a focus on narrowing the gap in outcomes, for children in poverty, between 0-5 years of age. Rotherham's commitment would be to host 10 site visits for peer councils and attend at least 2 national meetings. £20k would be available to cover any costs incurred from other authorities wishing to visit and the cost of producing any publicity materials.

### 6. Recommendations:

- **That Members receive and comment on the content of this report.**
- **That members advise on how they would wish to be kept informed on progress of the programme should it be successful.**

## **7. Proposals and Details:**

After discussions with CYPS Leadership team, the Chief Executive Officer Martin Kimber and Early Years colleagues, Rotherham has put forward an expression of interest to act as an Early and Foundation Years Development Demonstrator. Endorsement from the Yorkshire and Humber region is also required.

This is a new initiative which will create a national learning network and observatory of developing practice, not on the basis of established excellence but on a willingness to champion a journey in progress and share learning from its barriers and pitfalls as much as its successes.

The programme would benefit Rotherham by offering opportunities to showcase areas of outstanding, good and emerging practice across all sectors of early childhood services, such as, health, parenting services, voluntary and private early education and childcare providers, schools, colleges, the third sector and communities, adult learning and Job Centre Plus.

Learning from this programme would incorporate and augment Rotherham strategies such as Early Help Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing strategy by creating a coherent picture of what works and what doesn't work; including connectivity between partners to narrow the gap in outcomes, for children in poverty (0-5 years of age). It would also incorporate learning to support seamless transitions and access to services for children over five and their families.

The programme would build on existing practice and networks. It would also add to the learning from the 100 Families research project and Rotherham's DfE funded trial for additional early education places for vulnerable 2 year olds (2012-13). The programme could form a focal point by bringing together a number of strands across early childhood services to provide clarity and connectivity as part of a holistic approach to narrowing the gap and meeting the needs of children and their families, particularly the most vulnerable and those at risk of becoming vulnerable.

As a demonstrator site the LA would receive:

- £20,000 in cash to facilitate its commitments
- Training to develop action research and action learning capacity
- National CIB commissioned support for the observatory network
- Access to learning from previous relevant pilots, best practice and sector expertise
- Access to expertise in commissioning and productivity
- Access to expertise in integrated working

A Development Demonstrator must demonstrate:

- A leadership commitment to champion integrated early intervention as part of wider planning to tackle child poverty.
- A developing approach to the effective commissioning of services including, where appropriate, work with the private and voluntary sector, and with communities.
- A demonstrated commitment to and evidence of progress in integrated working in early years.

- Evidence of testing and learning from systems change which may include cross boundary and cross sector working, technological based improvements, personalised budgets, community budgeting and payment by results.
- A strong learning culture and a commitment to sector led improvement.

The Demonstrator must commit to host 10 site visits for peer councils and attend at least 2 national meetings. £20k would be available to cover any costs incurred from other authorities wishing to visit and the cost of producing any publicity materials.

Successful applicants will be informed by the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## **8. Finance:**

There would be no additional revenue costs to the Council. £20k will be provided to cover any costs incurred from other authorities wishing to visit, and the cost of producing any publicity materials.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

The risks involved in this programme would be low level as it is just as important to capture and learn from what doesn't work as well as what does. However to ensure the success of the programme it would be important to have all key stakeholders committed to the programme and willing to champion their contribution plus the commitment and support of strategic leaders and service managers.

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

The programme would incorporate and augment a number of strategies across the local authority, health and Job Centre Plus such as Early Help, Troubled Families, Deprived Communities, Health and Well Being and Child Poverty. Other key stakeholders such as schools, learning communities, colleges, early education and childcare providers and the voluntary and community sector are vital partners to have on board to support improving outcomes to narrow the gap for those children and families who are vulnerable or at risk of becoming vulnerable.

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

Early Help Strategy  
 Early Help Operational Plan  
 Child Poverty Performance Plan  
 Health and Well Being Strategy  
 100 Families Research Project  
 Children's Centres Statutory Guidance

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