Present:- Councillor Stone (in the Chair); Councillors Boyes, Ellis, Gosling and Kirk; Councillor Littleboy (Police Representative), Angela Bingham (Voluntary Sector), Ruth Holmes (Probation), Ann Lawrence (Non-Executive PCT), Philip Marshall (Head Teacher - Clifton), J. McIvor (PCT), Imogen Clout (Voluntary Sector), Joyce Thacker (Connexions) and Dave Featherstone (District Commander, South Yorkshire Police).

Also in attendance: -
Di Billups (Executive Director, Children and Young People's Development), John Gomersall (Executive Director (Social Services), Ged McNulty, Andrew Bedford and Sarah Whittle.

Apologies for absence: - Mike Cuff (Chief Executive, Peter Rennie and Ellen Smith (PCT).

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHILDREN'S BOARD - 3RD FEBRUARY, 2005

The minutes of the Children’s Board held on 3rd February, 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

2. MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S EXECUTIVE GROUP - 17TH FEBRUARY, 2005

The minutes of the Children's Executive Group and key issues were noted.

3. THE ROTHERHAM CHILDREN'S FUND

Ged McNulty submitted a report on the above matter which included a sample letter and a Partnership Agreement.

Ged reported that, following the successful approval of the Children’s Fund Three Year Strategic Plan, it was proposed by the Children’s Fund projects that the Children's Executive Group and the Children’s Board be asked to consider granting three year Children’s Fund Partnership Agreements to commissioned services with a specified grant allocation agreed annually subject to funding availability and services complying with the terms of their agreements and reaching their agreed targets.

He explained that the purpose of offering conditional contracts was to provide a period of stability to those services who rely on short term funding for survival, without obligating the Children’s Fund to financial contracts it may not be able to honour if funding ‘dries up’ or which it may have to retract if services do not fulfil the terms of their agreements.

Current arrangements are such that commissioning of services is agreed for the duration of the Children’s Fund allocation, i.e., 2005 – 2008, and
Partnership Agreements are issued on a yearly basis only. Advice from the Accountable Body suggests that this would be the most prudent way forward.

It was noted that this matter had been considered and acknowledged by the Children’s Executive Group on 17th February, 2005.

Di reported that discussions about projects had been ongoing with the relevant partners. However, the Leader felt that there was now a need to discuss jointly with partners any anomalies and the methodology of funding projects for the next financial year and future years.

Agreed: (1) That the Children’s Board acknowledge that the Children’s Fund commissioned services have requested that consideration be given to granting three year contracts, with an agreed allocation only for the year 2005-2006 and subsequent funding subject to conditions as outlined below.

(2) That the Executive Group and Children’s Board agree to offering contracts on a yearly basis only (as set out in the example submitted of previous similar contract/agreement) but that, for the confidence of service providers, confirmation is given for three year funding based on Rotherham Children’s Fund receiving its full allocation and services meeting their targets and outputs and the terms of their contracts/agreements (as set out in the example letter re 2004-2006).

(3) That Di, in consultation with the Leader, convene a meeting of the relevant parties to address issues concerning mainstream funding.

4. CLIFTON PROJECT.

Phil Marshall, Project Leader, gave a power point presentation on the Clifton Project at the Upper Clifton School Site, Cranworth Road, Rotherham.

A Presentation pack was handed out at the meeting which included:

- The Clifton Commitment
- Current Project Team
- A map of the Clifton Area

The presentation covered the following:

- Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was “Every child and young person matters all of the time”.

“To develop an ambitious, productive, self-supportive and sustainable
community in which all children and young people achieve the best possible outcomes”.

**- High Level Intended Outcomes**

- Integration to deliver locally tested outcomes
- Common Assessment
- Lead Workers
- Information Sharing Protocols
- Monitor, Evaluate and Review
  in order to strengthen ‘safety nets’ and improve life chances.

**- Key Operating Principles**

- Co-location. Community based.
- Connect to networks
- Challenge existing thinking
- Daily connections
- Relentless focus on outcomes for children and young people “The Clifton Commitment”
- Learn through doing.
- Quick operational and strategic learning.

**- Important Outcomes to Date**

- A vision – National, local, area, neighbourhood
- A recognition of the potential to regenerate and transform
- A commitment to change for the better
- Multi-Agency team co-located
- Early Learning – Operational and Strategic
- Voluntary sector enthusiasm
- Future plans emerging already
- Children and young people more central to thinking and doing

**- Lessons Learned**

- Strategic leadership is vital.
- Local leadership and management
- Clarity of partnership planning
- Concurrent demands
- Connect to local, existing partnership and priorities
- Test thinking with local people
- Involve workers in Project design, planning, preparation and evaluation
- Avoid overloading
- Relentless focus on children and young people

**- Next Steps**

- Baseline indicators and intended outcomes tested locally
- Medium Term Professional Development Plan
- Re-define community perceptions
- A CYPS Centre for the 21st Century

The Board asked a range of questions and it was noted that the Clifton Project was one of three pilot projects.

Agreed: That details of the Clifton Project be noted and welcomed.

5. NATIONAL SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN.

John McIvor gave a power point presentation and submitted a copy of an Executive Summary on the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, prepared by the Department for Education and Skills.

The power point presentation covered the following :-

**Key Issues:**

- Ten year plan
- Focus on inequalities
- Eleven standards, three parts.
- Part 1 – services for all children, young people and parents or carers.
- Part 2 – children and young people who require more specialised care.
- Part 3 – pregnant women and their partners

**The Standards require services to:**

- Give increased information, power, choice and involvement (to children and young people and their family)
- Introduce a new child health programme
- Promote physical health, mental health and emotional well being
- Focus on early intervention and comprehensive assessment of need
- Improve access to services, co location and developing services
- Managed local Children’s Clinical Networks for children who are ill or injured
- Tackle health inequalities, address needs of communities
- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children, ensure staff are suitably trained etc.
- Ensure that pregnant women receive high quality care

**Implementation:**
• Delivery standard published 15th December
• Links with National standards, local action, NHS Improvement Plan
• Links with Public Health White Paper
• Integrated inspection – Joint Area Reviews
• Links with CNO review (Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors)
• Every Child Matters: Change for Children – Outcomes Framework

CNO Review:

• Increasing the number of school nurses
• Strengthening the public health role of MW, HV and nurses
• Greater integration and co location of practitioners within Children’s Centres
• Strengthening the children’s role of nurses in general practice
• Improved leadership in relation to Child Protection

Public Health White Paper:

• Children’s centres and Extended schools
• Healthy eating (local returns on obesity)
• Providing more opportunities for sport and physical activity
• New support and information to young people on sexual health issues
• Preventing the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to children
• Development of person health plans

Every Child Matters – Change for Children:

• An increasing emphasis on early identification and intervention
• Strengthening health promotion in local communities
• The development of Children’s Trust arrangements
• Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

NSF – Delivery Cycle:

• Assessing the needs of children, young people and pregnant women
• Identifying priorities: targets and standards
• Planning services
• Commissioning services to meet those needs
• Managing performance, assessing and inspecting outcomes

Plus:

• NSF Information Strategy – ‘child index system’, information sharing, monitoring trends and mapping children’s health
• Workforce – capacity, modernisation, skills development
• Modernisation and Improvement – managed children and maternity networks, R&D (especially in relation to medicines), Clinical Governance and clinical audit, confidential enquiries, involvement
of C&YP

Useful References:

- www.dh.gov.uk
- www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
- www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

A children’s Plan in chart form was included in the presentation pack.

A question and answer session ensued.

John made particular reference to the Child Index and reported that this issue was one for this Board to lobby on as this system need to be integrated with the rest of the country. The Rotherham PCT and NHS were required by the Government to go on a national system.

The Leader suggested that a common briefing sheet with suggestions on the way forward needed to be forwarded to Kevin Barron, M.P., seeking his support.

Agreed: (1) That the National Service Framework presentation be noted.

(2) That John Gomersall and John McIvor, in consultation with the Leader, draw up a common briefing sheet with suggestions on the way forward to be submitted to Kevin Barron, M.P.

6. 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 the paragraph, indicated below, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:-

7. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TASK & FINISH GROUP.

Di gave an update on the discussions by the Task & Finish Group which had met recently.

The key steps in moving forward included the following :-

- Seminar for all Members of the Council in order to gain their understanding support.
- Partners Away Day to disseminate ongoing work, roles and responsibilities.
Major publicity to raise awareness of parents, young people and the community, of the risk to young people of sexual exploitation. Preceded by a risk assessment and consideration of the likely impact/outcomes of a campaign. Local, regional and national statistics to be available but not included in any press release. This to include all agencies, press officers led by RMBC Corporate Press Office. Emphasis on awareness raising with all agencies to contribute. Involvement of local press, Council Matters, Publicity in schools and public places etc.

Major multi agency training for all staff involved in this issue.

Establishment of a lead contact person/tel: number for the public to report matters around sexual exploitation. This to be fed to police etc.

Need for partner agencies to contribute to the provision of a Co-ordinator to lead on addressing sexual exploitation.

Group to meet with Angela Smith to look at places of safety, safe houses, witness protection.

Group to look at Safe Travel, to include meeting with Dave Stockdale re: licensing issues and taxis, and with SYPT re: young people being refused transport.

Di said that a report from the Task and Finish Group would be supplied to Members of the Board.

Agreed:- (1) That the good work of the Task and Finish Group be acknowledged and fully supported.

(2) That all the key steps listed above be supported and actioned by the appropriate officers/partners to be notified by Di Billups.

(3) That a core message be prepared to which all partners could sign up.

(Exempt under Paragraph 6 of the Act – information relating to the adoption, care, fostering or education of any particular child)