

Children and Young People's Services

Rotherham Report Card

**How the Council's Children and Young People's Services
performed in 2011/12**

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 
Where Everyone Matters

Introduction

This is our 'Report Card' for 2011/12; we want to share with all children, young people and families in Rotherham the work we have done to support and improve outcomes and life chances this year and to inform you all about our plans and priorities for next year.

This Report Card details how we have performed between April 2011 and March 2012 against Ofsted inspections and assessments and how services that we provide or commission are meeting the needs of our children, young people and families. We feel that we can show that we are working towards the key national government policies of Early Intervention and Prevention through Early Help and Safeguarding through many initiatives such as investing in tackling Sexual Exploitation.

We will share with you what we have done well, tell you where it has not gone so well and what we are doing to put things right. We have worked closely with our Voluntary and Community Sector, Health colleagues and the Police to identify any emerging trends and we have included the most important actions in our improvement plans to deliver the highest quality services for children, young people and families in Rotherham.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Thacker".

Joyce Thacker
Strategic Director,
Children and Young People's Services
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

Councillor Paul Lakin
Cabinet Member for Children, Young
People and Families' Services

Section 1.

What are Children and Young People's Services?

Children and Young People's services work with partners such as Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), South Yorkshire Police and many Voluntary and Community organisations to promote the Health, safety, well-being and educational needs of children and young people throughout Rotherham.

The 2011 Census shows there are currently 62,200 children & young people aged from 0 – 19 in Rotherham. Of these, 1,887 attend Early Years provision such as Children Centres and Childminders, 23,046 attend Primary Schools and 18,968 attend Secondary Schools. Below are just a few examples of the services delivered in Rotherham:

- Adoption, Fostering and Residential Care services
- Leaving Care Services
- Children's Safeguarding
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Locality Social Work Teams
- Youth Offending and Youth Services Teams
- Early Years Services
- Special Educational Needs Service
- School Effectiveness Service
- Children's Centres
- Education Welfare Service
- Education Psychology Service
- Family Information Service
- Outdoor Education Centres
- School Catering
- School Music and Performing Arts



Section 2.

How are Children & Young People's Services viewed externally & locally?

This section contains details of recent inspections that have been carried out by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Ofsted inspects and regulates services which care for children and young people, and those providing education and skills for learners for all ages. In Rotherham there are 538 Ofsted regulated inspections.

Ofsted carried out a total of 24,559 inspections nationally during 2011/12 and have recently published their annual report that sets out their findings from the past year. The first table below highlights some of the key results contained in the report and includes some comparisons between the national data and Rotherham's performance.

There are also details of the Children's Services Safeguarding Peer Challenge carried out in Rotherham by professionals from the Local Government Association (LGA). Included in all the inspections listed is a summary of identified strengths and areas for improvement and at the end of this section there is a table of the actions that are being taken to address these areas.

	National Result (August 2012)	Rotherham Results (October 2012)
% of Providers across Ofsted's inspection remit assessed as being 'Good or Better'	70%	71%
% of Early Years Providers assessed as being 'Good or Better'	74%	72.2%
% of Children's Centres assessed as being 'Good or Better'	65%	90.9%
% of Childminders assessed as being 'Good or Better'	71%	68.6%
% of Nursery & Primary Schools assessed as being 'Good or Better'	69%	72.6%

	National Result (August 2012)	Rotherham Results (October 2012)
% of Secondary Schools assessed as being 'Good or Better'	66%	53.8%
% of school age children who attend a school assessed as Outstanding by Ofsted	21%	16.3% *
% of school age children who attend schools that fall short of being 'Good or Better'	31%	37.9%*
% of pupils who attend a Good or Outstanding Primary Schools	63%	67% *
% of Pupils who achieved 5 or more GCSE passes at A* to C including Maths & English	59%	56.7%

** Percentages based on data from March 2012*

Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment 2011

In November 2011 Ofsted assessed Children's services in Rotherham as performing adequately. The majority of services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are judged as good or better overall.

Summary of Strengths

- There has been an improvement in the overall quality of early years and childcare provision since the 2010 Ofsted assessment.
- The Local Authority continues to have a very large majority of provision in nursery and primary schools that are good or better for children under the age of five. Over the last four years, achievement at the Early Years Foundation Stage has improved at almost twice the rate of improvement nationally.
- The number of 16 year olds who achieve five or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and Mathematics continues to rise steadily
- The high quality of local authority provision in its special schools has been maintained and one of the three pupil referral units is now good, having previously been satisfactory. This year three of the five homes are good.
- There is almost no inadequate education provision in the local authority and monitoring visits to schools that are, or have been, in an Ofsted category of concern show that the Local Authority provides effective and varied support helping to bring about good improvement.
- The recent inspection of Youth Offending Services identified good outcomes in the key areas of performance inspected.

Areas for Development

- Only a third of Early Years Foundation Stage children from Low income families show a good level of development compared to their peers. This is below the national average and the gap between these children and others in Rotherham has widened slightly. *Provisional data for 2011 suggests that outcomes for this group of children have improved in 2011 and the gap has narrowed.*
- Educational standards reached by children at the age of 11 remain too low. They are well below similar areas and the national average, as are progression rates between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in English and Maths. *Provisional Key Stage 2 results for 2011 show results improved only marginally.*
- The proportion of secondary schools and sixth forms that are good or better remains too low. At Key Stage 4, the gap in achievement between all pupils and those from low-income families is not reducing.
- By the age of 19 too few young people achieve level 3 qualifications in comparison with the national average.

Children's Services Safeguarding Peer Challenge

In 2011 Rotherham's Children Services took part in a Children's Services Safeguarding Peer Challenge where a team of experienced professionals from the Local Government Association and other Local Authorities looked at how well services in Rotherham help to keep vulnerable children and young people safe. The peer challenge review findings are as follows:

Summary of Strengths

- Rotherham is an authority which shows great ambition and has made significant improvements over the past two years.
- There is a strong political and managerial leadership
- There is commitment to safeguard Rotherham's Children
- There is a focus on developing user engagement
- There is strong partnership and joint working
- Learning and development

Areas for Development

- Clarity of roles responsibilities, relationships and leadership is required – e.g. Children's Trust, Health & Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, Rotherham School Improvement Partnership Boards.
- Develop more detailed, outcome focused, service improvement planning to include key steps, data gathering, analysis etc.
- Increase pace in developing strategies, delivery and quality assurance.
- Communication.
- Clarify Children's Trust commissioning approach and strategy.



Actions to address Areas for Improvement.

Below is a list of some of the responses / actions that have been or are being taken to address the areas for improvement identified by the inspections detailed in section 1. The list is not exhaustive and more detailed plans have been developed to ensure these actions are carried through to completion. Some of the other actions being taken by Children and Young People's service will be listed in **section 5: How we improve outcomes for Children, Young People and Families in Rotherham.**

Area for Improvement	Response / Action
Improve the attainment of children from low income families at Early Years Foundation Stage	The percentage of children achieving the required standards at Early Years Foundation Stage who are from low income families in Rotherham has increased by 10% between 2009-2011 to 33.3%
Improve the educational standards reached by children at the age of 11 (Key Stage 2)	Performance has increased by 2.8% to 69.3% in 2011 in Rotherham against a national increase of just 1%. A challenging target of 78% has been set for 2012. The Local Authority has powers of intervention to work with schools that are underperforming. Formal School reviews were carried out during the Autumn term and schools are required to submit actions plans to address any underperformance.
Clarity of roles, responsibilities, relationships and leadership is required – e.g. Children's Trust, Health & Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, Rotherham School Improvement Partnership Boards.	A streamlined governance structure has been approved by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and the Think Family Steering Group and terms of reference have been revised to give clarity of roles, responsibilities and leadership etc.
Undertake a multi-agency review of cases of serious neglect where children's social care services have been involved for a significant period of time.	A review has been carried out on a 10% sample of Child Protection and Children in Need cases where neglect is the main category of concern. The completion of the detailed multi –agency review is planned for March 2013.

Area for Improvement	Response / Action
Ensure all strategy discussions meet statutory requirements, are clearly and fully recorded and signed of by a manager	Paperwork for discussions and meetings has been reviewed and amended and awareness sessions for workers have been delivered. Ongoing compliance to requirements will be monitored as part of the Quality Assurance Framework.
Ensure the outcomes and rationale for all Section 47 enquiries are clearly recorded and signed off by a manager.	A briefing has been issued by the Director of Safeguarding Children and Families' Services. Feedback from Ofsted has been provided to social workers and compliance checks will take place as part of the Quality Assurance Framework.
Improve the consistency and quality of referrals from partner agencies to the contact and referral team.	The Multi Agency Referral Form has been refreshed to facilitate referrals to the contact and referral team. The Multi Agency Threshold descriptors are to be published and an Early Help Partnership seminar took place in November 2012 to communicate to frontline practitioners.
Ensure that domestic violence notifications from the police are timely and include a child focused risk assessment.	New arrangements put in place to ensure all non urgent notifications are received within 2 working days of the police report. A new screening tool and training is being developed.
Improve the quality and consistency of child protection and children in need plans.	Children in Need and Child protection documents have been revised subject to consultation, final amendments to be made by the Quality Assurance Manager. A procedure and checklist has been issued to all staff.
Ensure that core groups, children in need meetings and supervision sessions focus on the progress made to reduce the risk identified in plans.	A template has been developed for core groups to use to ensure meetings are correctly focussed on risks. The document is being finalised and is hoped to be launched early 2013. A New supervision policy has been launched and quality will be monitored by the Quality Assurance Framework.
Ensure that full consideration is always given as to how children and young people's views are represented in child protection conferences including, when appropriate, enabling access to advocacy support.	Views of children are being captured in case notes as part of the Child Protection Conference preparation and presented at the conferences. A toolkit is being developed to better capture the voice of children and young people to be used by practitioners and a new advocacy service is to be piloted in Rotherham.

Current Inspection Outcome Position

Ofsted inspects many services in Rotherham that provide care or education for children and young people. The following table sets out the percentage of services that were assessed as being 'Good or Better' at their most recent Ofsted Inspection. E.g. In August 2011 62% of Early Years and Childcare providers in Rotherham were assessed as being 'Good or Better'. However, in October 2012 the percentage has improved to 72.2%. The table also shows the performance direction of travel from February 2012 to October 2012.

Table to show Rotherham's Current Inspection Outcome Position

	Children's Services Assessment August 2011	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Direction of Travel since last CSA Profile	
Early years and Childcare e.g. Childminders & Children Centres	62%	66.0%	66.6%	66.7%	70.6%	70.8%	70.8%	72.4%	72.3%	72.2%	10.2%	↑
Nursery and primary Schools	75%	75.8%	76.3%	76.9%	73.1%	73.1%	73.1%	73.1%	73.1%	72.6%	-2.4%	↓
Secondary Schools	42%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	53.8%	53.8%	57.1%	57.1%	53.8%	53.8%	11.8%	↑
Post 16 Education	29%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	13.9%	↑
Special Schools & Pupil Referral Units	83%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%	0.3%	↑
Fostering and Adoption	50%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	→
Children's Homes	60%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	60.0%	0.0%	→

Key

	Greater than 80% 'Good or Better'		50% - 64.99% 'Good or Better'
	65% - 79.99% 'Good or Better'		Less than 50% 'Good or Better'

Section 3.

Key facts about how money is spent in Children & Young People's services.

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- The council spent just over £41million Net on Children and young People's services during 2011/12.
 - In 2011/12 Rotherham spent £30.47m on Safeguarding Children and Family Services which included £15.93m on Looked after Children services such as residential and foster care.
 - The average weekly cost of an independent fostering placement for a child is £871.39. (Correct at October 2012)
 - The average weekly cost of an independent residential placement for a child is £3118.45. (Correct at October 2012)
 - Rotherham spent £9.257m on Early Years services in 2011/12 which includes Children Centres, Childcare and the Family Information Services etc
 - Rotherham spent £3.737m on Youth and Community Services for Children and Young People
 - In 2011/12 Rotherham spent £4.514m on Special Education Provision.
 - On average Rotherham schools spent £5,694 per pupil in 2011/12 which is higher than other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region and higher than all other similar councils to Rotherham in the country.

Section 4.

What customers think about the services we deliver.

Customer voice and influence and the "journey of the child" are central to the delivery of effective Children and Young People's Services. Having good quality customer experience information helps us to know if our services are really making a difference in the lives of children, young people and their families

A recent review of current Customer Insight activity and its effectiveness showed that the majority of teams are currently gathering customer feedback recording wishes feelings and experiences of children, parents/carers and families using a variety of activities such as traditional postal satisfaction surveys, focus groups, review meetings and case studies. Recent examples include:

- DVD's capturing the customers' experience of the Adoption Service and life as a 'Looked after Child are

currently being used for promotional purposes and shifting perceptions.

- Youth Work Apprentice led consultation on the effectiveness of services for young people at the Rotherham Show.
- Child friendly consultation forms have been designed to capture Looked after Children under and over 11 years old experience and views.
- The rollout of the Parent and Child Voice Charter in schools.
- Young People peer evaluators placed within the Fostering Team.
- Inclusion and exit programmes within the Family Recovery programme capturing feedback from customer experiences and lessons learnt.

The review highlighted that improvements need to be made in relation to the analysis of recurring themes, lessons learnt and

how this can or has helped improve future service delivery both at operational and strategic levels. In addition services do not widely communicate or celebrate their existing voice and influence work wider than their own teams.

The recent unannounced inspection also highlighted the need to improve how Children and Young People's views are represented in child protection conferences and how customer feedback is used to inform service development. Performance and Quality officers will be working directly with services to support them in the delivery of these improvements.

In addition the Performance and Quality Team have commenced mapping exercises for customers who are either a Foster Carer or Adopter, or are within the process of becoming one. This will allow services to better understand their processes through the customer's eyes and gain feedback on their satisfaction levels though out their journey of applying for or being involved with a particular service. Improvement action can then be taken on any areas of concern to ensure foster carer numbers, adoption rates and associated retention rates are high and in house LAC placements are maximised.

Complaints and Comments

During 2011/12 Children and Young People's services received 422 first stage complaints which has increased from 336 in 2010/11. However, the number of people who have complained has decreased from 115 to 82 so fewer people have complained. 91% of these complaints received a response within the required timescales compared to 61% in 2010/11 so significant improvements have

been made in the timeliness of responses to customers.

During 2011/12 83 stage 2 complaints were received from 5 customers. Although the number of stage 2 complaints have increased from 49 in 2010/11 Rotherham has one of the lowest rates of escalation to Stage 2 across other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region. There were no Stage 3 complaints received in 2011/12 43 compliments about services provided were received during 2011/12. Examples include:

- Compliments to a Team Manager for the support, work and commitment demonstrated in the journey of a customer through their application for a Special Guardianship Order.
- Thank you from a looked after child for the provision of a letterbox parcel.
- Thank you from a school governing body and head teacher for support received from the School Effectiveness Service.
- Compliment from parents of a looked after child recognising the work of the social worker and the progress their child has made.
- Compliment to social worker from parents about work done with daughter and family.
- Compliment from solicitor on behalf of a parent to express gratitude for the hard work put into the case by the social worker.

Learning from Complaints

Managers responsible for responding to complaints are required to identify lessons learned from complaints and specify actions taken as a result to improve the service that customers receive. Examples of Learning from Complaints include:

1.

Complaint

A customer was not happy that some of the details included the Initial and Core Assessments were not accurate and they felt that they had not been able to have their views represented within the assessment.

Response

Customers are now encouraged to challenge the content of Assessments with their social worker as part of the assessments process and issues around social work practice have been reported to the Practice Improvement Group to contribute to improvements in social work practice through workforce development

2.

Complaint

A child complained that they were fed up of having lots of different social worker.

Response

To address this issue all children in long-term care have an allocated social worker in the Looked After Children's Team.

New Developments and planned improvements for 2012/13

A number of new developments are planned for 2012/13 to ensure Children and Young People's services continue to deal with complaints effectively and in a timely manner. Examples include:

- The complaints function for Children and Young People's Services is undertaken by the Performance and Quality Team with an identified lead officer.
- Improvements have been made in the complaint reminder processes to ensure that complaints are responded to within timescales.
- A monthly complaints meeting with the Director of Safeguarding Children and Families has been introduced to maintain excellent performance management of complaints at all levels.
- CYPS will aim to reduce the number of complaints dealt with through the formal complaints process by working with staff to ensure immediate actions are taken to put things right at the earliest opportunity.
- Re-introduce processes to capture the satisfaction of customers with the complaints handling process.
- Increase focus on learning from customers and complaints by ensuring issues and actions are identified for all complaints where appropriate and improve the recording and reporting off comments so learning issues identified and implemented.
- Improve access to the complaints procedure for Looked after Children by improving information provided to them and opportunities to tell us their views.

Section 5.

How we improve outcomes for Children, Young People and Families in Rotherham.

Priority 1: Making sure no community is left behind.

The percentage of children living in households where income is less than 60% of the national median has increased in Rotherham from 22% in 2010/11 to 23.3% in 2011/12. Data released later in 2012 would indicate that the levels of child poverty have since reduced to 22.6% but remain above the national average of 21.3%. Please note there is a significant time lag of two years for data for this measure to be released so results published for 2011/12 relate to 2009/10.

The council is working with partners on a number of initiatives to try to ensure child poverty does not increase further in Rotherham. These include:

- Rotherham has implemented a Government initiated programme to help 700+ of the borough's most troubled families. Rotherham's programme is called Families for Change and will work with these families to improve their situation at home and reduce their reliance on benefits and services.
- Rotherham has re-launched its Early Help Strategy with one of the strategic objectives to mitigate the effects of child poverty by supporting families to fulfil their potential. The council will work in partnership with other statutory services and the voluntary and community sector to change focus to a preventative and early intervention approach with a commitment to identify need and support children, young people and their families at the earliest possible stage. Rotherham has adopted the Continuum of Need or 'Windscreen' as a helpful way to communicate different levels of vulnerability whilst acknowledging the fluidity of a family's situation. *Please see the diagram below.*
- A support pathway is being developed for Children's Centres to support parents achieve economic wellbeing.
- Support is being targeted to Rotherham's most vulnerable groups including EU migrants and new arrivals through the development and implementation of the child poverty measures detailed in the EU migration action plan.
- The Credit Union in Rotherham is being marketed and promoted.
- There is a whole council focus on the most deprived communities to improve the Health and wellbeing of the least affluent in the borough.



Continuum of Needs
(Commonly known as The Windscreen)

Priority 2: Providing Quality education; ensuring people have opportunities to improve skills, learn and get a job



- In 2011/12 58.3% of children in Rotherham achieved the required standard across the Early Years Foundation Stage an increase of 1.9% from 2010/11.
- In 2011/12 69.3% of children achieved at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at key stage 2. This is below the national average of 74%. However, Rotherham has improved by 2.8% from 2010 against a national improvement of 1% so Rotherham is narrowing the gap.
- 56.7% of Children in Rotherham achieved 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE including Maths and English in 2011/12. This has improved from 50.8% in 2010/11 and is getting close to the national average of 58.9%.
- In 2011 all Rotherham Secondary schools had at least 40% of children who achieved 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE including Maths and English.
- In 2011/12 there were 6630 young people in post 16-18 education including 1896 in School Sixth Form, 1048 in Sixth Form Collages, 2904 in further education and 748 in higher education.
- In 2011/12 1920 young people in Rotherham accessed apprenticeships, improving their skills and employment prospects. 931 were aged 16-18 and 989 aged 19-24. The number of apprenticeships has risen from 1461 in 2009/10 and 1645 in 2010/11 giving a total percentage increase of 31.4% over this time period.

Priority 3: Ensuring care and protection are available for those people who need it most.

- In 2011/12 81.9% of initial social care assessments for children were carried out within 7 days of referral and 86.6% were carried out within 10 days, both above the national average of 64% and 77.2% respectively.
- 69.4% of core assessments for children's social care were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement. Performance is below the national average of 75%; however this has improved to 89.8% by December 2012 as a result of the actions taken.
- In 2011/12 98% of children who live in Fostering or Residential care had their care reviewed within required timescales
- 100% of child protection cases were reviewed within required timescales.



Priority 4: Helping Create Safe and Healthy communities

- 8% of primary school age children in Reception class are considered to be obese.*
- In 2011/12 22% of primary schools age children in year six were considered to be obese. This is above the national average of 19%. As a result Rotherham continues to provide weight management services and uptake has increased. The Obesity Strategy group continues to promote access to preventative and treatment services and activities.*
- 46.8% of Primary school children take up school meals, higher than the national average of 44.1%.
- 35.7% of secondary school children take up school meals. This is lower than the national average. To address this marketing initiatives have been implemented including a new School meals starter booklet and theme days to try and stimulate take up.



* The equipment used nationally to calculate obesity levels was found to be calibrated incorrectly after publication of these results and therefore the data shown above may not be accurate.

Section 6. Our Plans for Improving Services

The following actions are taken from the Children and Young People's Services' Plan on a Page. These actions have already commenced and will help to improve services for Children and Young People and their families.

1. Fewer children are living In Poverty.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with partners and 3rd sector colleagues to create positive opportunities for families to improve their financial situation and life chances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure there is good targeted support for our most vulnerable groups including EU Migrants and new arrivals across all corporate outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the support available across all communities in respect of benefit and welfare advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will empower and equip parents to develop employability skills and experience to move their family out of poverty.

2. More People have formal Qualifications and skills.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve achievement and standards across all key stages of education with particular emphasis on Key Stage 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will raise aspirations and increase opportunities to be successful.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the number of adults engaging and achieving in learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to narrow the gap in the education of our most vulnerable groups including new arrivals

3. All 16 – 19 year olds are in employment, education or training.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the numbers of young people in employment, education or training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure Learners with LDD continuing in education or training will receive the most appropriate provision to meet their needs and enable them to progress in learning and life skills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will successfully deliver the Raising Participation Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support more young people into an Apprenticeship.

4. Babies and pre-schools children get a good start in life.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that parents receive good information, advice and guidance in relation to pre-birth, preschool and Health provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure there is sufficient high childcare and early education particularly areas of high deprivation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the number of 2 year olds meeting their early years developmental milestones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the engagement of vulnerable families in Children Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce the rates of children's delayed communication and language development. 	

5. All children in Rotherham are safe.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will reduce the numbers of Children missing from education and cease inappropriate part-time timetables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure all contacts; referrals and assessments are robust and dealt with in a timely manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase local provision for Looked after Children including foster carers, adoption and residential through the council's invest to save initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with our Local Safeguarding Children's Board to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Young People in Rotherham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will respond quickly and effectively to Serious Case Review recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will actively involve our Looked After Children in decision making in their own lives and how they are cared for.

6. People in need get help earlier.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will work with parents and carers to equip them with the skills and confidence to enable them to become independent of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will improve pathways between children's and adult's services to ensure a 'Think Family' approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will ensure that every child with a diagnosed disability is offered early support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will increase the capacity of Early Intervention and prevention teams for Young People
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will embed the Common Assessment Framework and processes in the work of all Children and Young people's services across the partnership.	

7. Carers get the support and help they need.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will improve parent and carer satisfaction by implementing the Charter for Parent and Child Voice across schools and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will offer carers adult learning that is accessible to them in their particular circumstances.
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8. People feel Safe where they live.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will reduce the number of young people re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will prevent Young People at risk of committing crime entering the Youth Justice System.
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9. More people are physically active and have a Healthy lifestyle.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will provide a range of positive activities for children, young people and their families in each learning community.
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Below is also a list of the Key Children and Young People's Services Business Developments and Improvements.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will increase the proportion of 'good' providers, schools and settings to at least 65% for each type. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with schools and partners to establish collaborative working across Learning Communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support the successful development of the School Improvement Partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure Value for Money in Looked After Children's Services by effective commissioning and working with families to reduce the number of children in care. <i>There were 411 Rotherham children in care on 31st March 2010, this reduced to 393 31st December 2012.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve our customer insight and ensure action is taken to develop services to meet local need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure our workforce has the correct skills sets to address the needs of the local population.

Examples of other Future Plans and Developments

1. Changes to Special Educational Needs Delivery

On 9th March 2011 the Department for Education released the SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a new approach to special educational needs and disability. The green paper proposed:

- A new approach to identifying special educational needs through a single early years setting-based category and school-based category of SEN.
- A new single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan by 2014.
- Local Authorities and other services to set out a local offer of all services available.
- The option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new Education, Health and Care plan
- Strengthening parental choice of school, for either mainstream or special school.
- Changing the assessment process to make it more independent.

The Council and partners from NHS Rotherham are busy developing plans to address the requirements of the Green Paper. The specific objectives are:

- To achieve consistent communication and information sharing across all agencies in relation to activities to deliver against the Green paper requirements
- To develop a communication strategy for internal and external application
- To develop appropriate policies, protocols or systems to respond to the statutory requirements of the Green paper
- To develop a local offer that includes:
 - Education provision
 - Social Care provision
 - Health provision
 - VCS provision

- Support for Parents
- To design and implement a system for Personal Budgets
- To implement Education, Health and Care Plans 0-25

2. Integrated Youth Support Services

The momentum for creation of more Integrated Services has been gathering pace across Local Authorities for some time now, in order to focus resources on more targeted and effective services and outcomes for young people.

Rotherham sees this as an ideal and exciting opportunity to realign, refine and improve youth provision across the borough and increase positive outcomes for local young people.

The Services that will be combined in Rotherham will be the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service and the Connexions Service. The IYSS will be fully integrated with a new overall structure and set of pathways.

The overall vision of the new service will be a robust menu of provision in Rotherham ranging from open access to specialised support enabling young people to access what they need, when and where they need it.

Young people will also have access to opportunities for personal and social development, voice and influence and a broad range of interesting and challenging positive activities.



3. Child Sexual Exploitation Service

Child sexual exploitation in Rotherham is an expanding area of work and is now widely reported both nationally and locally in Rotherham. The Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services were recently invited to appear at a House of Commons Select Committee on Sexual Exploitation to contribute to the building of national knowledge on this distressing subject.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council provided a child sexual exploitation service called Risky Business long before the issue of child sexual exploitation was widely accepted and understood. Following on from the success of Risky Business the Council has resolved to unite all agencies involved in safeguarding young people to manage this threat at the highest level. The new service which is under development aims to:

- Reduce sexual exploitation by deterring offenders with the threat of disruption, prosecution and by raising the awareness among young people.
- Identify victims early, win their confidence and help them recognise themselves as victims.
- Achieve successful prosecutions and prevent young people from becoming victims.
- Support victims and their families to move forward positively with their lives.

The interventions required to support young people at high risk of child sexual exploitation must be coordinated and overseen by qualified Social Workers in accordance with current legislation, guidance and good practice. Two dedicated social workers will provide continued support to young people whether they are at high risk or if they are on the fringes of child sexual exploitation.

The service aims to provide Rotherham Metropolitan Borough with a rapid consistent response to young people at risk of sexual exploitation. Excellent partnership arrangements are already in place between South Yorkshire Police, Children and Young People's Services, the child sexual exploitation service and Safe at Last to provide an appropriate response to children and young people who are at risk of being sexually exploited or who are victims. The specialist team will sit alongside investigators with the Police Public Protection Unit to ensure a shared responsibility and consistent approach.

Education is the cornerstone of reducing and ultimately preventing child sexual exploitation and the service will target as many children and young people of various ages and backgrounds within schools with a clear aim to reduce the numbers of young people at risk in the future. The service will develop strong links with schools, specifically with Personal, Social and Health Education leads and closer links will be developed with Healthy Schools.

A clear strategy will be developed to outline the indicators of child sexual exploitation and will include referral pathways and guidance for professionals as to where support can be sought for children at risk but not currently a victim of sexual exploitation. Support and guidance will also be available to parents and carers of children and young people who are at risk of being abused through sexual exploitation.

Section 7. Strategic Commissioning

Strategic Commissioning of Children and Young People's Services sits within the Resources Directorate and works very closely with the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

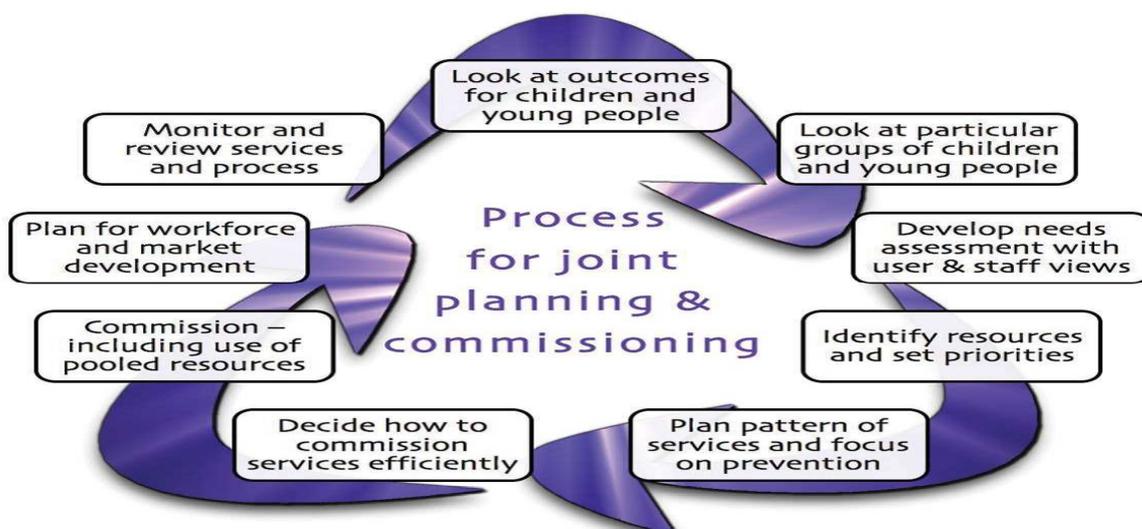
Commissioning is defined as:

“An on-going process to secure the best value for local citizens through translating aspirations and need, into services for users which deliver the best possible Health and wellbeing outcomes and provide the best possible Health and social care provision within the best use of available resources.”

DH 2007

A fundamental element of the work of commissioners is to understand the needs, aspirations and expectations of children, young people and families of Rotherham. This understanding is enhanced through the joint working with our partners in Health and the Voluntary Sector on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Children's Audit of Need, but also through robust consultation with all key stakeholders.

Management of risk and quality assurance are critical to delivering the highest quality value for money services. All commissioned services are specified for the highest quality and are contract managed and monitored to ensure sustainable improved outcomes for children, young people and their families. Strategic commissioners work across the whole Council including with Media and Communications, Community Cohesion and the Chief Executives Officer Group to achieve the best outcomes but also to raise the profile of and advocate for the needs of children, young people and Families.



Strategic Commissioning Priorities

An important piece of work has been to identify the priorities for commissioning for 2012/13 to work with the service on delivering improved outcomes and life chances for children, young people and families. The following priorities have been developed hand in hand with the Children and Young People's Directorate, some of these are completed pieces of work and others are work in progress for Operational Commissioners against agreed timelines.

1. Support new Integrated Youth Service with commissioning activity as necessary including decommissioning of Connexions
2. Aiming High for Disabled Children – refresh against a new needs assessment and commission in line with this
3. Transport – recommission transport to achieve efficiencies, value for money and better outcomes. Current contract with Environment and Development Services School transport inc. Special Educational Needs, Looked after Children and Adult Services transport
4. Substance Misuse – ‘know the score’ specialist substance misuse service commissioned by Public Health, intention to be a part of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
5. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – reviewing commissioning specification – remodel in 13/14
6. Review the Portfolio of services to educational establishments
7. Recommission sub regional residential provision for Out of Authority Looked after Children in terms of preferred supplier status Yorkshire and Humber wide, R1 standard, R2 specialist, R3 specialist with education, R4 parent and child assessment (mother and baby)
8. Recommissioning across the sub region Youth Restorative Justice
9. Adult Safeguarded Learning – commissioning against grant for 2012/13 for community learning
10. Commissioning Plan for the Children and Young People's Plan for 2012/13 and regularly report progress against the agreed outcomes - complete
11. Connect to Support – proposed inclusion of Children and Young People's services
12. Extend the contracts for 2012/13 for MIND, GROW and Home Start. Review in line with Early Help Strategy implementation
13. Children England Project – increasing take up of children's centres by hard to reach families
14. Review of in house residential Looked after Children provision statement of purpose
15. Contracts for in house services
16. Quality Assurance of Out of Authority placements /contracting concerns
17. Raise the profile of Commissioning in Children and Young People's services.
18. Habershon outdoor education centres – review opportunity to increase usage
19. Review of services for children with violent/abusive parents
20. Review of services for young people in violent/abusive relationships
21. Post 16 Educational placements review – local offer improvement
22. Contact recommission service from voluntary sector consortium - complete
23. Report Card develop local account
24. Joint carers charter development – young carers' element
25. Junction project – recommission service provided to young people displaying inappropriate sexual behaviour – complete
26. Recommission mental Health in schools contract
27. Commission Health watch Rotherham

Achievements in Children and Young People's Services Strategic Commissioning

Following a series of reviews Children and Young People's operational commissioners, as part of Resources Strategic Commissioning have delivered significant achievements, in particular modernisation of commissioning approaches with frameworks, regional and sub regional commissioning and preferred partner agreements. Other work achieved is set out below:

Out of Authority Placements

- Development and introduction of a Framework for standard placements reducing the number of accredited providers used from 25+ down to 6 and making a projected saving of £80k for 2012/13
- Direct negotiation with all providers delivering a saving of £708k in 2011/12 which is recurrent and £120K plus to date in 2012/13
- Development and introduction of a block contract agreement for complex placements realising a saving of £70k in 2012/13 which is recurrent
- Supported and monitored the cost avoidance from the revised Multi-Agency Support Panel delivering a figure of £3.08M in 2011/12
- Arranged and monitored all Out of Authority placements including negotiation on price, notice periods and all contracting arrangements
- Monitoring and reporting of Continuing Care agreements on all placements with Health
- Development and agreement of Quality Assurance of Out of Authority Looked after Children placement providers

Early Intervention

- Commissioning and contract management of all Early Intervention / Early Help contracts delivering a saving for 2012/13 of 5% of contract value

Reviews of Services

- Review of Catering
- Review of Early Years services
- Review of Portfolio services
- Review of educational placements for Looked after Children
- Review of support for children with violent/abusive domestic relationships
- Review of services for young people living with domestic violence and substance abuse
- Review GROW, MIND & Home Start to achieve best fit with Early Help strategy
- Review of all services funded by the Early Intervention Grant
- Review of Youth Services and significant contribution to development of an integrated Youth Services

Healthwatch

- Recommissioned LINKs until March 2013
- Managing the commissioning process including consultation, change management and implementation for Rotherham Health Watch.

Other

- Recommissioned contracts for
 - Junction Project,
 - Looked after Children Psychologist,

- Independent Social Work Managers,
- Safe@Last,
- Young Carers,
- Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) and Personal, Community Development Learning (PCDL) services for Adult Learning,
- Substance Misuse,
- Disability Short Breaks,
- Women's Refuge,
- Post Adoption Service,
- Leaving Care.

- Youth Support Service – Needs Analysis work underway, followed by a service model and commissioning strategy
- Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services – Partnership agreement with NHS Rotherham in place and more robust Local Authority monitoring arrangements developed.
- Contact – An innovative partnership pilot project has been developed between Children and Young People's services and the Voluntary and Community sector which is now being implemented
- Transport - More robust Looked after Children transport processes have also been implemented in order to mitigate overspends on the Looked after Children Transport budget and identify efficiencies
- Leaving Care – Changes to the service and added value requirements have been implemented. Includes Action for Children now managing Nelson Street and Looked after Children post 16 Duty Team. Ongoing performance management. Commissioned greater capacity with no increase in cost
- After Adoption Yorkshire – Ongoing performance management
- Women's Refuge – Developed young people's outcomes and service standards for the Supporting people service Specification. Service now re-commissioned and ongoing joint performance monitoring.

Give us your views

Tell us your experience of Children & Young People services and how you feel they can be improved.

E-mail: cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk

Telephone: 01709 822511

Write to: Children and Young People's Performance & Quality Team
 Floor 2 Wing C
 Riverside House
 Main Street
 Rotherham
 South Yorkshire
 S60 1AE

You can find out more about the many services for Children & Young People and Families in Rotherham by visiting the Family Information Service website @ <http://www.rotherhamfis.co.uk/>