



# **The impact of “Overview and Scrutiny”, across the borough**

**Annual report 2012-13**

**Forward plan 2013-14**

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**“Overview and scrutiny: improving lives and improving places”**

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# Introduction



Message from Councillor Glyn Whelbourn  
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Vice Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

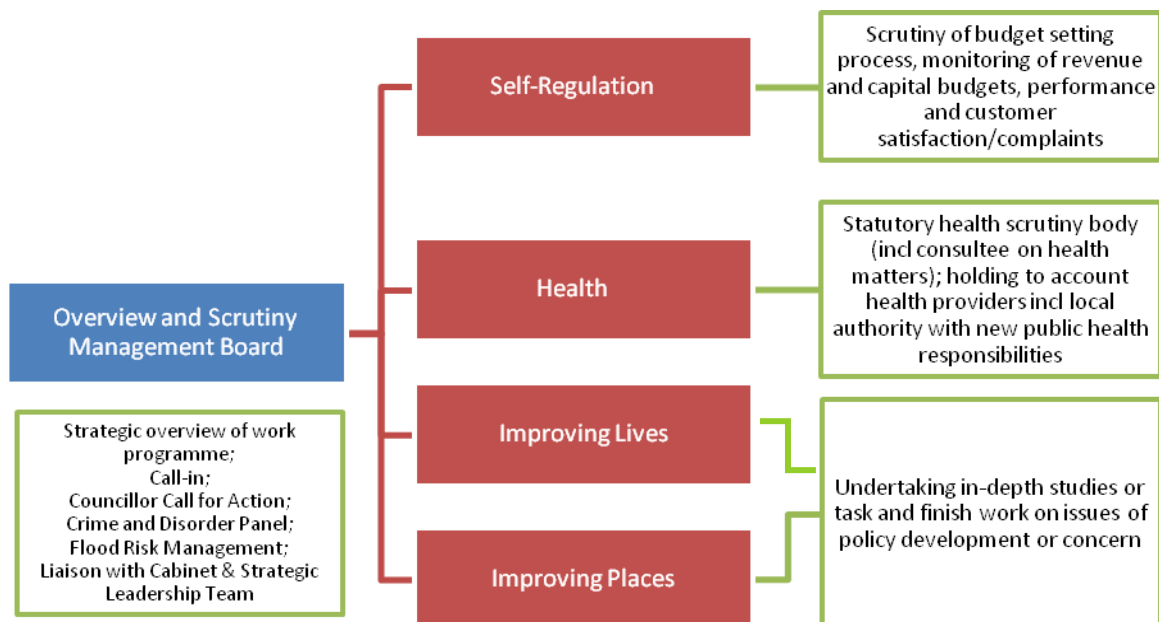
Welcome to the 2012-13 Annual report of Overview and Scrutiny here in Rotherham. The report presents a summary of the work undertaken by our Scrutiny Service during the last municipal year.

Scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that Local Government remains effective and accountable. In Rotherham we have 63 elected councillors committed to improving the wellbeing of people across the borough. The Cabinet (known as the 'executive') is made up of ten elected councillors whilst the other 53 are known as the non-executive (or backbench) members.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny function plays a vital role within the Council by reviewing issues of local concern, examining existing policies and practices and making recommendations to Cabinet and external bodies on matters which affect the borough and its residents. The overarching aims are:

- Holding the Cabinet's decisions and performance to account in a public arena to ensure that the Council's priorities and targets are being met.
- Reviewing issues that are important to the people of Rotherham.
- Examining the work of bodies operating outside the Council, for example local health services.
- Contributing to policy development and helping to shape corporate plans and policies.

Prior to May 2011 the scrutiny structure in Rotherham consisted of the Performance & Scrutiny Overview Committee (PSOC) supported by five Scrutiny Panels: Adult Services and Health; Children and Young People; Democratic Renewal; Regeneration; and Sustainable Communities. The new scrutiny structure, shown in the diagram below, has replaced the previous committees with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and four Select Commissions (in the red boxes).



# Introduction

The unprecedented financial pressure on Local Authorities continues to play a huge part in the work of Scrutiny. The Self Regulation Select Commission has again carried out its key annual task of ensuring effective scrutiny of the setting of the Council's budget. Work on this is reported in more detail in the report from Self Regulation later on. The implications of the financial position are felt by all of the Select Commissions in carrying out their work. This year the Scrutiny function in its entirety committed within its work programme to ensure that any recommendations developed did not result in any additional requests for resources from the Council, and where possible looked to achieve better efficiency from existing resources. For example within the Health Select Commission's review of Council Residential Homes recommendations as to how to make cost efficiencies without compromising on service quality, constituted the main theme of the review.

The aim for this year's annual report is to not only look at what has been delivered this year and plans for the forthcoming year, but to glance further back over recent years to gain an insight into the impact that Scrutiny has had. One such success, and in keeping with the theme of reducing unnecessary costs to the Council, is the outcome from a review of the use of consultants and agency staff. The recommendation to only allow this when it is absolutely necessary, and for such decisions to be reported and justified, has resulted in the Council cutting spend on agency staff from **£2.5m to £1.5m since 2010**.

For this reason, the annual report will look at outcomes from past reviews (under the previous structure), what has been achieved during 2012-13 and what their priorities are for 2013-14.

There have been occasions over the last 12 months, where key services have found themselves under the negative spotlight of the local media. Where this has happened Scrutiny has aimed to play its part in ensuring that such services are held to account and that Members are satisfied that maximum effort is being made to improve the situation. Examples include the open session held by Management Board to explore the outcomes from the Serious Case Review of Child S and the Health Select Commission's scrutiny of Rotherham General Hospital in light of their financial and management difficulties. Although both were difficult and sensitive at times, the process was received by most as rigorous yet positive and helpful.

I am proud to report that a scrutiny review from 2011-12 has influenced a major policy of the Council: looking at regeneration issues and good practice in the borough, its recommendations led to the current policy focus on the 11 most deprived areas of Rotherham. More details can be found later in the report

Finally Scrutiny has once again supported "11 Million Takeover Day". The idea behind the day is to give children and young people the chance to be involved in decision-making and the Youth Cabinet took over an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting, deciding to focus on transport issues. As a result they are working closely with SYPTTE on a driver training DVD around customer service relating to young people.

# Getting Involved in Scrutiny

The Select Commissions have continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers, witnesses and co-opted members. It is always the hope of the Overview and Scrutiny Service that residents will want to participate in this valuable and interesting work and it looks forward to further input from residents to the Council's work in 2013 and beyond.

We would like to extend thanks to the co-optees that have served on the Commissions in 2012-13:-

## Health

Victoria Farnsworth, Speakup  
Robert Parkin, Speakup  
Peter Scholey, Individual  
Russell Wells, National Autistic Society

## Improving Lives

Joan Blanch-Nicholson, Home Start  
Ann Clough, ROPES  
Jayne Fitzgerald, Rotherham Parent Carers Forum  
Joanna Jones, GROW  
Kate Muscroft, Parent Governor Representative  
Mark Smith, Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Consortium

## Improving Places

Jack Carr, Environmental Protection UK  
Derek Corkell, RotherFed  
Clive Hartley, RotherFed  
Terry Roche, RotherFed  
Brian Walker, Individual

## How to get involved

Scrutiny meetings are held in public and have a dedicated slot at each meeting for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of concern or interest. We are also happy to receive suggestions for future issues or topics for review. Panel meetings are generally held in the Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, S60 2TH.

If you want to make a suggestion, submit evidence or have any queries about Scrutiny, please contact us using the [Scrutiny online form](#). Visit [our website](#) for up to date information about the work of Overview and Scrutiny.

Alternatively, you can write, telephone or email:-

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager, Rotherham MBC, Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, S60 2TH.

Tel: 01709 822769 or email: [deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)

# Achievements over the years

## Positive outcomes following previous reviews

The reviews in this section span work carried out under both present and previous scrutiny structures. Continuity has been maintained by ensuring that the work of the former Scrutiny Panels has been progressed by the appropriate Select Commission, overseen by the OSMB.

### **Scrutiny Structures** (Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee)

As part of its 2010/11 work programme, PSOC set up a review group to examine the role and function of scrutiny in Rotherham. The review group agreed to examine whether the overview and scrutiny function of the Council was fit for purpose in light of the changing local government landscape.

#### *What has resulted*

- A stronger working relationship with Cabinet and Strategic Leadership Team has developed. Quarterly meetings with the Scrutiny Chairs have resulted in more regular consideration of issues of mutual concern and more streamlined work programming.
- Further development of Scrutiny skills, for example questioning skills, and more effective prioritisation of work within the annual programme.
- New structures have enabled the effective management of the self regulation agenda for councils, and their enhanced Health Scrutiny powers.
- A more cost effective and streamlined structure – with less Scrutiny Panels and more focused scoping and implementation of the annual programme of reviews.

### **Private Landlords** (Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel)

This review was initiated by Members after they had raised concerns about problems with private sector rented housing in some wards. There were also concerns at the changes to housing policy and the impact this may have on the private rented sector.

#### *What has resulted*

- Introduction of the Selective Licensing Scheme, which aims to help control the behaviour of private landlords and raise/sustain standards in the private rented sector.
- Enforcement staff have undertaken an intensive training programme to improve their skills and efforts directed toward the “Deprived Neighbourhoods” initiative. Following a risk based assessment process, additional Houses of Multiple Occupation have been identified.
- Support is given to local agencies such as RoBond to ensure that vulnerable tenants have access to affordable bond guarantees, assistance and advice. Initiatives include a paper bond guarantee scheme, Tenancy Support and The Rent in Advance Scheme.

### **Regeneration Funding and Neighbourhood Renewal** (OSMB)

This review was commissioned following the publication of the latest indices of multiple deprivation, which showed a deterioration in a number of areas in Rotherham.

#### *What has resulted*

- Area Assembly teams are working closely with Elected Members, Strategic Directors and partner agencies to target and use resources effectively in the Borough’s 11 most disadvantaged communities and in the Community First Areas. Each community has an action plan to address local issues and each Community First Area has an agreed Community Plan.
- Reflecting the Council’s corporate priority of “making sure no community is left behind” each departmental service plan is required to specifically address inequalities and identify support for the most deprived areas.
- The pooling of resources for the Family Recovery Programme, has resulted in joint working arrangements and co-location of teams between RDaSH and RMBC.



# Achievements over the years

## Positive outcomes following previous reviews

### **Corporate Parenting** (Looked After Children Sub-Panel)

The review coincided with the Notice to Improve being issued to Children and Young People's Services, so came at a critical time to ensure that the services for looked after children were 'good enough' and governance arrangements were robust.

#### *What has resulted*

- The Corporate Parenting Board is now well established with key Members and officers attending from across the different agencies working with looked after children. It monitors performance, including inspections, and has an overview of spend and savings across the service.
- Regular sessions on Corporate Parenting are built into the member Development Programme to remind them of their responsibilities; most recently 11 Elected Members attended a training session. In addition, there are regular celebration events to which Members are invited.
- The board regularly receives voice and influence reports for the Looked After Children Council (LACC) and the lead Member and Director of Children and Young People's Services meet with LACC members. LACC members have attended the board to discuss issues, share the work they have done and raise any matters they would like the board to look at.
- Although not a formal governing body, the board provides oversight and support as a critical friend to the Virtual Head Teacher about the attainment and attendance of looked after children in schools both within and out of Rotherham on a termly basis.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHEe)** (Children and Young People's SP)

Members of the Youth Cabinet identified PSHEe provision and teaching in schools as an area to explore as the topics and themes it encompasses are central to young people's wellbeing.

#### *What has resulted*

- All secondary schools in Rotherham provide PSHEe, which was not made statutory, utilising a range of methods such as form time, within humanities teaching, suspended timetable, subject specific PSHE lessons, and shared PSHEe, Citizenship and Religious Education teaching.
- At PSHEe leads meetings the LA PSHE Lead works with specialists to develop train the trainer resources on a variety of subject areas enabling PSHEe teachers to share learning and developments with their colleagues back in school to keep up to date, resulting in students receiving quality and current education e.g. Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and substance misuse education.
- Students enjoy having external speakers and quality control is in place for visitors to ensure their input enhances the curriculum and that consistent messages are delivered. The "Visitors Policy, Working in Partnership" guides staff and external speakers to plan the input and decide on aims, as well as providing model evaluation forms to help external speakers to refine their inputs to meet the students' needs.

### **Winter Weather** (Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panels joint review)

Following the severe winter weather in late 2010 the Emergency Planning Shared Service co-ordinated a review of the Council's emergency response arrangements. Actions based on the recommendations of the scrutiny review were taken into account during this review and in the production of the Corporate Severe Winter Weather Plan.

#### *What has resulted*

- Contacts within the Parish Councils and Area Assemblies form part of the important communication network for issuing weather warnings and keeping the public informed.

# Achievements over the years

## Positive outcomes following previous reviews

- Well received emergency planning training for Members on their roles has been delivered through an external training company accredited to the Emergency Planning College of the Cabinet Office.
- EDS, NAS and Health work jointly prior to the onset of winter each year to identify vulnerable locations that would be a priority for snow clearance.
- As part of continuing work to develop community resilience 25 snow wardens have been appointed, trained and equipped with appropriate resources to dovetail with the work of the Network Management Team.

### **Diabetes** (Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel)

Over 12,000 people in Rotherham have diabetes and its prevention, early identification and treatment is an important public health issue for the borough.

#### *What has resulted*

- The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which prioritises promoting healthier lifestyles as one of its key outcomes. Tackling obesity by prevention and early intervention is one of the key measures.
- Rotherham has one of the highest uptakes of healthchecks in Yorkshire and Humber with 56% of eligible people aged 40-75 (and who do not have an existing condition) having checks since the programme commenced. Work to promote healthchecks with higher risk groups and communities is continuing, such as through the mosques for the South Asian community.
- The Rotherham Diabetes Clinical Network has a Diabetes Service Champion, a person with diabetes, who contributed to updating diabetes guidelines for GPs to provide the best quality care and participated in the governance arrangements for South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw diabetes service.

### **School Closures Due to Extreme Weather** (Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel)

A short scrutiny review was undertaken of procedures for school closures in adverse weather following the bad winter weather in 2009-10 to consider if there were ways to minimise future disruption.

#### *What has resulted*

- Guidance on exceptional school closures was updated and emphasises remaining open whenever practical, which has seen schools make use of more flexible opening hours, such as later opening or earlier closure in bad weather rather than full closure.
- The schools emergency plan has been strengthened by the inclusion of a specific section on snow affecting the school site. Schools have focussed on site safety and keep larger stocks of salt and grit on school sites to improve safe access.
- Better communication is maintained in bad weather or an emergency through wider use of new technology by schools and improvements to the Council website - on 21st January 2013, a day with significant snowfall, 35,163 people had searched for 'school closures' before 9.30a.m.

### **Local Development Framework** (Improving Places Select Commission)

This review focused on the consultation processes that had been adopted as part of the LDF process and aimed to learn lessons to feed into improving them for future consultation exercises. The LDF (now named the Local Plan) has since undergone a further consultation exercise which incorporated many of the recommendations.



# Achievements over the years

## Positive outcomes following previous reviews

### *What has resulted*

- Training for new Members now includes the Local Plan and current issues to enhance their awareness.
- A presentation to the Parish Council Liaison meeting and a briefing on sites prior to the start of consultation to clerk and chair of Parishes.
- Events held well in advance of the consultation, firstly to allow Members to input to the process, and then to brief them on the information going out to the public. Parish Council and Area Assembly staff were also in attendance.
- Promotion this time included a letter to each property within 100m of a proposed site in addition to contacting all people on the database (who have previously commented / been involved) and usual press releases, information in libraries / customer service centres / parish halls etc.
- Promotional Material included clear localised maps with the wording of leaflets checked by press office staff prior to production. Multiple maps and diagrams were provided at consultation events so they were easily accessible and aided discussion.

### **Health Inequalities** (Health Select Commission)

This review took place as part of a Centre for Public Scrutiny project and focused on health inequalities for severely obese people (with a Body Mass Index of over 50).

### *What has resulted*

- Awareness raising briefings are now available for professionals working with this group of patients
- Regular information sharing now takes place as part of the protected learning time for General Practitioners
- A lead officer for obesity issues now pulls together all work on taking this review forward.

[Information about our reviews](#)

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Chair: Councillor Glyn Whelbourn

Vice Chair: Councillor Brian Steele



OSMB's remit is as follows:

- Call Ins
- Councillor Call for Action
- Designated Crime and Disorder Committee
- Equalities and Diversity
- Co-ordinate and prioritise annual work programmes
- Assign overview and scrutiny work as appropriate to the various Select Commissions
- Make recommendations to Cabinet, partner agencies and where appropriate direct to Council

## OSMB - our work this year

### Equality

Context - Following a report to OSMB in October 2012 it was agreed to hold a spotlight review on Directorate progress on mainstreaming equality and compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

What happened – OSMB dedicated one of its meetings to this spotlight review. The Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion presented an overview of the agenda and each directorate presented the main issues and achievements for their areas.

Outcomes – The main concern for Members was that the Council's performance in this area did not deteriorate as a result of the budget challenges being faced. OSMB resolved to monitor this and receive future reports. Members also resolved to ensure that performance against the equalities agenda featured much more as part of its regular work programme and reviews.

### Serious Case Review

Context - The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to learn lessons when agencies have not worked effectively together, in order to improve services for children and young people in the future. All Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) produce recommendations and a resulting action plan to improve services and it is the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) responsibility to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

What happened – OSMB dedicated one of its meetings to consider the findings of the Serious Case Review in detail, to hear evidence from the LSCB Chair and Business Manager about how the action plan was being implemented and to reassure themselves that everything possible was being done to ensure the situation did not occur again. This was held in public session and resulted in significant press and public attention.

Outcomes – OSMB were reassured about the rigour with which the Serious Case Review was conducted, they had very detailed questions and concerns addressed and it was agreed that closer working between Scrutiny and the LSCB needed to take place in the future.

### 11 Million Takeover Day

Context - OSMB invited the Youth Cabinet to take over a meeting in February 2013. The Youth Cabinet identified that they wished to discuss transport issues and invited Cabinet Members and officers, and a wide range of other agencies including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, First Bus Group and Stagecoach.

What happened - The meeting focused broadly on safety on buses and at interchanges; and access to affordable, integrated travel. As one of the main principles of 11 Million Takeover Day is to extend

## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Currie	Cllr Dalton	Cllr Falvey	Cllr Gilding
Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr License	Cllr A Russell	Cllr Whysall

### OSMB - our work this year

young people's influence on decision making, each of the participating agencies has been asked to consider the recommendations emerging from the discussions and to give a response on the areas within their control. It is the intention of OSMB to convene a meeting in six months to assess progress.

Outcomes - Young people from Rotherham Youth Cabinet were invited to attend a Regional Transport Summit held at Sheffield Town Hall. Discussions included attitudes of bus drivers towards young people and subsidised cost of transport during the summer holidays. A list of action points following the meeting are being considered

- Young people have been asked to help produce a DVD to train new Bus Drivers at the SYPTTE Drivers Academy, around customer service relating to young people. They have also been invited to First Depot to have a look round and discuss their issues with the staff and drivers.
- Police representatives have attended Youth Cabinet meetings to try to address the issues raised at 11 Million Takeover Day. Youth Cabinet members have been invited to go out with Police Officers to look at how the town centre and interchange is patrolled in order to seek their views.
- Young people have met with SYPTTE staff to talk about issues of safety at Rotherham Interchange, visiting the CCTV room and discussing how security and safety are addressed.

### Fuel Poverty

Context - The issue of fuel poverty was identified in the work programme for Scrutiny in 2011/12. The forthcoming Green Deal and its potential impact was identified as a key challenge and as such it was kept in the work programme for 2012/13.

What happened – The spotlight review was held during a scheduled meeting of OSMB in September 2012 and invited key officers as well as partners from the Utility Companies. The review itself departed from usual format in that the aim was to develop a positive “offer” for working with the Utility Companies around this agenda. In this respect it was successful and a number of the recommendations are already being implemented.

Outcomes – The influence of the review can be felt in three main areas of current Council activity. The Warmer Homes Strategy will be strongly influenced by evidence and intelligence about what works, and will be delivered as a priority within the Health and Well Being Strategy. A Green Deal working group (with input from Elected Members) is overseeing the Council's approach, including the development of a partnering arrangement with Green Deal providers and Utility companies. Finally staff are being made aware of key initiatives such as the Green Deal and the Winter Warmth campaign to ensure local people benefit from them.

### OSMB - our work programme in 2013-14

- Community Safety
- Deprived Communities
- Update of Scrutiny Functions
- Welfare Reform

*For further information contact:*

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01709 822769 or  
email [deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)

[Scrutiny in Rotherham](#)

# Health Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

Vice Chair: Councillor Judy Dalton



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- To be the Council's designated scrutiny body for any health issue relating to health, wellbeing and the public health agenda
- To consider commissioning and governance arrangements in relation to health and wellbeing in Rotherham
- To make recommendations for improving public health in Rotherham and reducing health inequalities
- To work with the Health and wellbeing Board in ensuring effective transfer of health responsibilities to the Council

## HSC - our work this year

### Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Context - The Health Select Commission looked at this area as a result of a request by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The main concern was the apparent high levels of diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Rotherham. The purpose of the review was to investigate the steady increases in these levels over the previous ten year period.

What happened - An in depth review was conducted by the Vice Chair of the Health Select Commission and aimed to be as inclusive as possible. A key focus of the review was the input from parents and carers of people with ASD and on the practical implementation of support services via visits to a school and an early years setting. The review served to focus on four key areas; diagnosis rates and the reasons for this, services required at diagnosis stage and after, age 16 plus support and transition and finally the budget implications of this.

Outcomes - The findings of the review have provided a strong focus for the work being taken forward around ASD currently. As a direct result, two main providers (the Child Development Centre and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) are now working more closely together to deal with, amongst other things, transition between services. Also work around Education, Health and Care Plans will be piloted with children with a diagnosis of ASD.

### Residential Homes

Context - This review was identified in the work programme for 2012/13 and was prioritised by both Scrutiny Members and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. In light of the budget pressures being faced by the Council and the need to identify further budget cuts it was felt that an independent view on the future of the homes was required.

What happened - It was intended that the Scrutiny review would add value to budget work underway and allow a wider range of discussion to take place about the future of the homes. The overall aim of the review was to achieve an understanding of value for money, outcomes and quality of service provision and in particular, the potential impact of budget cuts on this. The review made recommendations to the Executive to be considered alongside the process of setting and reviewing the budget for 2013/14. The review was carried out over a number of meetings, however, the key focus was a session held within one of the residential homes, including as wide a range of staff as

## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Barron  
Cllr Beaumont  
Cllr Beck

Cllr Goulty  
Cllr Hoddinott  
Cllr Kaye

Cllr Middleton  
Cllr Roche  
Cllr Wootton

## HSC - our work this year

possible. This enabled a valuable insight for members of the review group into the quality of provision as well as costs.

Outcomes - Although this review is still progressing through the Executive, early indications are that it is being positively received and the main anticipated outcome would be for an appropriate balance to be found between cost reductions and quality of service, that will allow the homes to continue to provide the valuable services they currently do.

### Rotherham Hospital

Context - As a result of local difficulties being experienced managerially and financially within Rotherham Hospital, and national concerns following the Staffordshire situation, members wanted to meet with management of Rotherham Foundation Trust to gain an understanding of how the challenges were being met.

What happened - HSC held two meetings with the Chair, Acting Chief Executive and other senior managers. One was held at the hospital and included a ward tour. HSC members effectively challenged the actions being taken by the Trust.

Outcomes - Members were reassured around key issues such as nursing care and quality, support for vulnerable patients, financial management and proposed redundancies.

## HSC - our work programme in 2013-14

- Access to GPs
- Continence
- Excess Medication
- Mental Health Services
- School Nursing
- Sexual Health Services

*For further information contact:*  
Janet Spurling 01709 254421 or  
email [janet.spurling@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:janet.spurling@rotherham.gov.uk)

[Health Select Commission](#)

# Improving Lives Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Ann Russell

Vice Chair: Councillor Neil License



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- the Every Child Matters agenda (note Health Overview and Scrutiny Select Commission responsibilities)
- the 'Think Family' and early intervention/prevention agendas
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people
- employment and skills development.
- non-health related adult social care

## ILSC - our work this year

### School Governors

Context - The role of the local authority in supporting governing bodies to undertake their leadership and challenge role in schools and achieve the best outcomes for pupils is changing. Against this backdrop, ILSC agreed to undertake to look at the impact of these changes and how well the Local Authority was positioned to respond.

What happened - The review resulted in 16 recommendations which focused on induction and training, the role of Local Authority Governors and strengthening levels of support and challenge. Because of the inclusive review process, the recommendations were welcomed by chairs and vice-chairs who saw them as sensible and timely and very much in the spirit of longer-term development of the governing bodies. It helped that the Members involved were active governors who had an understanding and knowledge of the challenges faced by governing bodies, linked with understanding of the role of the local authority, resulting in some practical recommendations.

Outcomes – The review raised the profile of governing bodies and the challenges faced and also raised their profile amongst politicians. Changes introduced as a result of the review include the introduction of governor champions to share good practice at governing bodies. The role of local authority governors has been clarified with further guidance on both the role and responsibilities, including agreement to undertake development opportunities. A range of learning opportunities will be introduced including e-learning, structured sessions delivered with Learners First and also local authority support.

### Anti-Bullying support in Schools

Context - Following a request made by the Youth Cabinet, the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to examine peer mentoring schemes in schools as a way to tackle bullying. After some initial scoping, including a visit to a Safe Havens project, the evidence gathering for the review took place in a single 'spotlight session'. The review interviewed officers, representatives from a mental health charity and Safe Haven, plus students and senior teaching staff from three Rotherham schools. In addition, questionnaires were circulated to students with almost one hundred responses received.

What happened - The review had some broad aims:

- Establish if peer mentoring schemes make a difference to tackling anti-bullying in Rotherham schools (from a school and young person's perspective).
- Understand how such schemes work in practice in Rotherham (prevalence and effectiveness) and the role of different agencies.
- Establish if there are any barriers which prevent schools adopting a peer mentoring scheme.
- Explore if there are low-cost/no-cost solutions to help make peer mentoring schemes sustainable in the longer term.



## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Ahmed	Cllr Burton	Cllr Kaye	Cllr Robinson
Cllr Ali	Cllr Clark	Cllr Lelliott	Cllr Roche
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Dodson	Cllr Pitchley	Cllr Roddison
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Donaldson	Cllr Read	Cllr Sharman

## ILSC - our work this year

Outcomes - Whilst the report has yet to be considered by Cabinet, the review group were pleased with the body of work which involves students to tackle bullying. Where these schemes exist, it is clear a 'whole-school approach' is taken and bullying is addressed seriously and effectively. It was heartening to see young people taking the lead and speaking so passionately about their involvement and its benefits. To ensure greater consistency amongst other schools, the review will be making recommendations to promote good practice amongst senior leaders and governors.

### Domestic Abuse

Context - In April 2013 a broader definition of domestic abuse to include 16-17 year olds and coercive control was published in the national *A Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan*. This change together with Member concerns about the potential impact of Welfare Reform on domestic abuse prompted a review to consider how partner agencies are working together in Rotherham to support people who have experienced domestic abuse.

What happened - Several sessions were held during which a range of partners from both statutory and voluntary and community sectors participated to provide information. Current structures and processes, information sharing between partners, assessing and reducing risk, and work at both strategic and operational level were topics explored in depth during the review.

Outcomes - A number of recommendations will be made by the review group for consideration by Cabinet once the review is completed. These will focus on ensuring that agencies in Rotherham work together effectively and efficiently to tackle domestic abuse and are able to respond to future challenges.

## ILSC - our work programme in 2013-14

- Annual Safeguarding Report
- Child Poverty – impact on the family
- Families for Change
- Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children
- Narrowing the Gap - improving educational outcomes
- Child Sexual Exploitation - update on progress

*For further information contact:*

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[Improving Lives Select Commission](#)

# Improving Places Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Jenny Whysall

Vice-chair: Councillor Jacquie Falvey



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB related to:

- Community cohesion and social inclusion
- Tourism, culture and leisure
- Housing and Neighbourhood strategies
- Economic development and regeneration strategies
- Environment and sustainable strategies

## IPSC - our work this year

### Grounds Maintenance

Context - A report on “the effects of budget savings on the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing schedules” was presented to the Improving Places Select Commission in July 2012. As a result the Commission agreed to conduct a review of these service areas with a view to identifying potential improvements to the delivery of these services, within the existing budget limitations.

What happened - Initial discussions at the Select Commission resulted in officers completing an initial review. This was then shared with members of the review group, with the aim of adding value to the suggestions being put forward. This took place over a number of meetings and resulted in the review group making a number of detailed recommendations over and above those of the officers. The findings of the review have been positively taken forward by officers, even prior to its finalisation and as a result good progress is being made.

Outcomes - Issues being moved forward already include:

- the development of winter schedules of work deploying green waste collection operatives
- urban gardening
- proactive marketing of grounds maintenance to schools
- improvements in customer feedback and monitoring
- establishment of a volunteer bureau to support these services
- an exercise to identify over used and under used bins
- refinements to the Cabinet portfolios covering this area.

### Section 106 Agreements

Context - Elected Members had expressed concern regarding lack of information about how this source of funding is utilised by the Council, particularly with regard to addressing the shortage of school places (which was considered by Improving Lives).

What happened - A full report was presented to the Commission and although a full review was not deemed necessary it was given thorough consideration within the meeting. Information required by Members was considered in detail and recommendations made about how and when this should be presented in the future. Further reports will be received on a regular basis, with a particular focus on school and green spaces.

## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Foden	Cllr Jepson	Cllr Swift
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Gilding	Cllr Johnston	Cllr Wallis
Cllr Atkin	Cllr Gosling	Cllr Read	Cllr Wright
Cllr Dodson	Cllr N Hamilton	Cllr P Russell	
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Havenhand	Cllr Sims	

## IPSC – our work this year

Outcomes - A steering group to oversee the co-ordination of information on this area of work, with attendance from the Chair of Improving Places has been established. The first progress report is being prepared currently.

### Potholes

Context - Members requested this work because of the high levels of public complaints and concerns it causes. They received a detailed report from Streetpride early in the year, with a follow up report on the Multi-Hog machine later on.

What happened? - Discussion took place within an IPSC meeting on resources and how the programme of works is devised and prioritised. The second report and discussion focused on the use of a new piece of machinery call the Multi-Hog. Members noted that this provided a potentially much more effective and long lasting method of mending potholes.

Outcomes - Members were able to access information and will maintain an interest in monitoring this to ensure they have an influence on it and as a result are better able to manage public concerns. They were able to input at an early stage to the Multi-Hog pilot and to access information about how and where it is in operation.

## IPSC - our work programme in 2013-14

- Community Assets/Community Right to Buy
- Council House Gardens
- Council Housing Finance
- Council Housing Rents and supplementary charges for community rooms and laundry charges
- Customer Service Centres and Libraries
- Local Plan - Sites and Allocations Policy
- Local Procurement Policies/Support to Business
- Town Centres

*For further information contact:*

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01709 822769 or  
email [deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)

[Improving Places Select Commission](#)

# Self Regulation Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Simon Currie

Vice Chair: Councillor Jane Hamilton



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB related to:

- the Council's self assessment processes as part of the self-regulation framework
- issues and actions emerging from external assessments (peer review, inspection etc)
- monitoring and holding to account the performance of service delivery within RMBC and its partners etc with particular reference to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy
- scrutinising and monitoring whether efficiency savings are achieved or exceeded
- co-ordinating the carrying out of value for money reviews
- scrutinising the annual budget setting process
- monitoring the Council budget and MTFS

## SRSC - our work this year

### District Heating

Context - The Commission received a report to its January meeting outlining proposals for Housing Rent Increase 2012/13, which included charges for heating in those areas covered by district heating. The report outlined that the scheme did not secure full recovery of its costs and despite action to address this, it had not proved possible due to significant increases in fuel charges and other factors.

What happened - With pressure on all household budgets, it is important that residents receive reliable, competitive and value for money heating. However, the basis for charges did not reflect actual costs. The review sets out some practical steps to remedy this, ensuring that charges are fair and affordable to tenants. It also explores how we communicate changes, service improvements or disruptions with our tenants.

In order for DH to be efficient and effective, the Members concluded that management continuity and oversight needed to be improved and set out how this can be achieved in relation to financial management, DH stock condition and future investment plans into existing schemes or in new technologies.

Outcomes - As a result of the scrutiny review, officers now have a much closer working relationship across the Directorates. This has meant that a number of review recommendations have been resolved ahead of plan and has led also to significant improvements in income recovery.

Separately, the new approach has enabled acceleration of Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) claims, working alongside the bio-mass fuel providers. Officers are hopeful of a successful outcome before the end of 2013.

A major recommendation was to undertake a stock condition survey of all 18 schemes. This began in earnest in June 2013, using an in-house team with specialist contractors brought in as necessary. This arrangement has the added benefit of an immediate start, whilst further improving retained knowledge in relation to district heating schemes.

## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Atkin	Cllr Ellis	Cllr Pickering	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Sharman	Cllr Watson
Cllr Beck	Cllr Mannion		

## SRSC - our work this year

### Budget Scrutiny

Context - The scale of service reductions over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review (and into the next one) makes the Cabinet's task to allocate resources very difficult. The Scrutiny Review of the Budget Setting Process took place during 2011/2012 with its recommendations being considered by Cabinet in autumn 2012. As a result of the review, proposals were made to change the way that scrutiny of the budget in future years is undertaken.

What happened - The review made 21 recommendations which all were agreed by the Cabinet. These focussed on:

- Clarity about the impact of sustained cuts on performance and how services will be delivered into the future to meet Council priorities.
- How service changes and reductions are communicated to the wider public.
- Ensuring that opportunities for partnership working or alternative delivery are fully explored
- The impact of service changes on vulnerable groups, and how these are mitigated.
- The changing legislative and policy agendas (e.g. Welfare Reform) and the impact these may have on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities.

Outcomes - The 2014/15 budget process is about to commence. The review largely focused on process rather than tangible improvements to services. Nevertheless, the recommendations from the review have been incorporated into the refreshed approach to budget setting. Furthermore, both OSMB and Self-Regulation Select Commission will be involved in the scrutiny of the budget setting process at regular intervals providing structure and rigour to the scrutiny process.

## SRSC - our work programme in 2013-14

- Budget Monitoring
- Budget Setting Process
- Commissioning
- Customer Satisfaction
- Performance Monitoring - corporate plan outcomes

*For further information contact:*

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser Tel: 01709 822765 or email [caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk)

[Self Regulation Select Commission](#)

# Select Commissions 2013-14

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Chair: Cllr Glyn Whelbourn

Vice Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Meets on Fridays at 9.00am on a monthly basis

Cllrs Beck, Currie, Dalton, Falvey, Gilding, Read, A Russell, Sims

Management Board is supported by Deborah Fellowes - Tel: 01709 822769



The Board is supported by:

### Self Regulation

Chair: Cllr Simon Currie

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Dominic Beck

Meets (generally) at 3.30pm on  
Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Ahmed	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Atkin	Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr Vines
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Mannion	Cllr Watson
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Sharman	

The commission is supported by:  
Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765



### Improving Lives

Chair: Cllr Ann Russell

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Chris Read

Meets (generally) at 1.30pm on  
Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Ali	Cllr Dodson	Cllr License
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Donaldson	Cllr Pitchley
Cllr Buckley	Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr Robinson
Cllr Burton	Cllr Kaye	Cllr Roddison
Cllr Clark	Cllr Lelliott	Cllr Sharman

The commission is supported by:  
Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765



### Improving Places

Chair: Cllr Jacquie Falvey

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Kath Sims

Meets (generally) at 1.30pm on  
Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Roche
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Gosling	Cllr P Russell
Cllr Atkin	Cllr N Hamilton	Cllr Swift
Cllr Dodson	Cllr Jepson	Cllr Vines
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Johnston	Cllr Wallis
Cllr Foden	Cllr Pickering	Cllr Whysall
Cllr Gilding	Cllr Read	

The commission is supported by:  
Deborah Fellowes - Tel: 01709 822769



### Health

Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Judy Dalton

Meets (generally) at 9.30am on  
Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Barron	Cllr Middleton
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Roche
Cllr Goulty	Cllr Sims
Cllr Havenhand	Cllr Watson
Cllr Hoddinott	Cllr Wootton
Cllr Kaye	

The commission is supported by:  
Janet Spurling - Tel: 01709 255421





If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please contact us:

Tel: 01709 822776  
Minicom: 01709 823536

or by email to: [scrutiny.works@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny.works@rotherham.gov.uk)

#### Slovak

Ak vy alebo niekto koho poznáte potrebuje pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám pošlite e-mail.

#### Slovensky

#### Kurdish Sorani

کوردی سۆرانی  
نەگەر تۆ یان کەسێک کە تۆ دەناسی پێویستی بەیارمەتی هەبێت بۆ ئەوەی ئەم بەلگەنامە یە تێیگات یان بێخوێنیتەوه،  
تکایە پەیوەندیەمان پێوە بکە لەسەر ئەو ژمارە یە سەرەو دەدا یان بەو نێمەینە.

#### Arabic

عربي  
إذا كنت أنت أو أي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم اعلاه، أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني

#### Urdu

اُردو  
اگر آپ یا آپ کے جاننے والے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے یا پڑھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو  
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں یا ہمیں ای میل کریں۔

#### Farsi

فارسی  
اگر جناب عالی یا شخص دیگری که شما او را می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک نیاز به کمک دارد لطفاً با  
ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید.