

## ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Audit Committee</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>25 September, 2013</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Audit and Inspection Recommendations Update Report</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighborhoods and Adult Services, Performance and Quality</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report summarises the progress against recommendations from across all key external audits and inspections of council services.

It is intended that this report provides a high level analysis of progress with a particular focus on outstanding recommendations and new inspections since the date of the last report (March 2013). A summary of these are detailed within the table in Appendix A. In summary;

- Since the last report there have been two new inspections resulting in 3 new recommendations
- There are currently four action plans relating to Inspection and Audit recommendations which are still “active” in the authority (ie contain outstanding recommendations which are still relevant)
- Across these action plans 29 recommendations have been completed and 9 remain outstanding.

### **6. Recommendations**

**That the Audit Committee:**

- **Note the progress achieved against outstanding actions**
- **Advice further actions as necessary**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The monitoring of Audit and Inspection recommendations provides evidence that the Council is able to respond to external challenge in a timely manner and is committed to continuous improvement. Additionally through analysing the recommendations we are demonstrating our ability to identify and rectify detrimental trends or issues and to deliver service improvement.

### **Progress against Recommendations**

Since the previous report progress against recommendations is good with clear actions identified and routes to monitor in progress in place. All recommendations are now complete for the EDS Review Report on The Registration Service in Rotherham. A small number of timescales for individual improvement actions have slipped, however all plans are on track to be completed and are reviewed regularly by Directorates.

### **Analysis of outstanding recommendations**

Progress against all outstanding audit and inspection recommendations of council services are monitored by Performance & Quality Teams. Currently there are 9 recommendations which need addressing. All are currently being progressed and monitored within Directorates.

#### **Audit Commissions review of Health Inequalities - 2009**

In relation to the Audit Commissions review of Health Inequalities in 2009 which relates to breastfeeding. Progress continues to be a challenge, initiation has dropped and is off target and has dipped below 60%. Activities are underway to review and improve the overall approach to improving breastfeeding rates. In addition funding has been secured for Breast Buddies peer support for a further 3 years.

#### **OFSTED Recommendations**

Children's Services continue to monitor OFSTED recommendations as part of the Improvement Panel.

#### **Youth Offending Services (YOS) – Short Quality Screening**

The Youth Offending Service has made good progress to date in relation to the recommendations made. Work is continuing with partners and external bodies to complete the remaining actions with completion scheduled for December 2013. Progress is continuing to be monitored through the Youth Offending Service Management Board.

### **New Inspection Reports received**

There has been two new inspection judgements received since the last report.

#### **1. Children's and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) - Fostering Inspection**

This was undertaken in July 2013 by Ofsted.

A positive report was received from OFSTED which recognised RMBC's Fostering Service as 'good' and highlights the high quality support which is being provided for children in care and Carers across Rotherham. This is the first 'good' the service has received.

Inspectors found a positive journey of improvement since the last inspection, with a clear ambition for the service along with a capacity to take these improvements further.

The two recommendations were;

- Ensure Foster Carers are provided with all information held prior to the placement of a child.
- Ensure during recruitment of new staff, that telephone enquiries are made to each referee to verify the written reference, and a record of this telephone conversation is recorded.

The action plan in relation to this is monitored by Children's Services as part of the Improvement Panel.

## **2. Adult Social Care – Report on the Registered Enabling Service in Rotherham**

Over the last 12 months all 8 adult social care registered services have been inspected by CQC. One inspection of the Councils 'Enabling Service' resulted in one area of non-compliance. All other inspections resulted in judgements of full compliance.

The inspection of the 'Enabling Service' was undertaken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in June 2013 to ensure compliance with national essential standards of care.

The inspectors focussed on five areas and the service received good feedback on four of these. The inspector however did indicate some concerns relating to the Quality Assurance (outcome 16). The report was received on August 19th 2013 and confirmed that the service was non-compliant on Outcome 16. The main reasons for non-compliance related to the inspectors not being satisfied with the explanations given by the registered manager regarding how service quality is audited and issues followed up.

CQC identified that the impact of the non-compliance was minor and set a compliance action requiring RMBC to produce a report setting out how and by when changes will be made to make sure we comply with the standard. Actions relating to the non-compliance will be in place by September 2013. A new registered manager is now in place.

Progress will be monitored and reviewed through quality assurance visits monthly. It is anticipated that CQC are likely to return during Oct-Dec 2013 period.

A summary of progress against all recommendations from "Active" Inspection & Audit action plans is provided in Appendix A. The Performance and Quality Team continue to work with services to ensure that the associated outstanding recommendations are completed and ensure services are prepared for new or changing inspection and assessment regimes.

## **Standards of Education**

There is an expectation from OFSTED and the Department for Education that Local Authorities support schools to ensure that they provide a good or better standard of education to the pupils in the area. There are 544 regulated inspections in CYPS, which currently 72% of schools (primary, secondary and sixth forms) are judged by OFSTED as good or better, this compares with 64.7% in 2012 and 62.1% in 2011. Nationally it appears that there has been an overall increase of 9% from 69% to 78% in schools judged good or outstanding.

## **Other Routine Inspections**

Routine inspections undertaken in relation to children's homes, schools, children's centres and residential care homes are reported to the relevant cabinet member/portfolio holders for each service and therefore do not form part of this report.

## **8. Risks and uncertainties**

Any risks and uncertainties are highlighted in the report above and should be noted as a matter of interest in light of the potential impact on other aspects of Council performance.

It is essential that in this time of uncertainty and in the absence of any national performance regime (other than children and adult services) that we continue to be able to demonstrate continuous improvement and self regulation through the implementation of any previously recommended actions.

## **9. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Approaches to inspection and assessment of local authorities are being developed across Government in the light of the decentralisation and localism agenda. In future any central inspection will be focused on the most vulnerable i.e. help to maintain high standards in children's services and adult social care. Intervention will focus on cases of serious risk or failure.

Ofsted are planning for their new arrangements for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. This replaces 4 former frameworks.

In addition it proposes three key judgements with a judgement of 'inadequate' in any of these three judgements leading to 'inadequate' in overall effectiveness.

Amendments will be implemented into the new Inspection in November 2013.

## **10. Background Papers and Consultation**

- All inspectorates' reports, letters and action plans since mid 2007.
- All new and follow up audit reports.
- All inspectorate frameworks, arrangements and guidance documents

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## Summary of Recommendations from “Active” Inspection & Audit action plans (which took place from 2007 to Present)

With summary of progression against recommendations since the last report and in total

Inspection / Review (date)	External Assessor	Number of recommendations	Implemented at last report	Implemented since last report	Still outstanding	Overall Completion Date for Recommendations	STATUS
Public Health							
Addressing Health Inequalities (January 09)	AC	10	9	0	1	On-going	On-going
Neighbourhoods and Adults Services							
Adult Social Care – Report on the Registered Enabling Service in Rotherham	CQC	1	0	0	1	Dec 13	On-going
Children and Young Peoples Services							
Thematic inspection of disability services (March 12)	Ofsted	11	8	2	1	Nov 13	On-going
Unannounced inspection of child protection (July 12)	Ofsted	13	9	3	1	Nov 13	On-going
Youth Offending Service – Short Quality Screening (Nov 12)	Youth Justice Board	5	0	2	3	Dec 13	On-going
Fostering Inspection (July 13)	Ofsted	2	N/A	0	2	Dec 13	On-going
<b>Total Recommendations in “Active” Inspection &amp; Audit action plans</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>		