

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**20th September, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Currie, Dalton, Falvey, Gilding, Read, G. A. Russell, Sims and Steele.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Beck.

**48.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**49.           QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

**50.           CONTINUING HEALTHCARE SCRUTINY REVIEW - CABINET RESPONSE**

Further to Minute No. 65 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th September, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director Health and Wellbeing stating that Continuing Health Care relates to NHS funding which is allocated to people whose health care needs meet a nationally agreed threshold. As a consequence of concerns that citizens in Rotherham were not being served well due to spending on Continuing Health Care being lower than nearby and statistical neighbours, a Review of Continuing Health Care was led by the Joint Health and Improving Lives Select Commissions during 2012. Actual expenditure per person on Continuing Health Care in Rotherham is below the average for the region.

A number of recommendations were made, which it is intended will improve the experience of citizens and ensure that a fairer share of Continuing Health Care funding is received within Rotherham. The Cabinet had accepted all of the recommendations of this scrutiny review.

Following receipt of the report, a senior management working group consisting of both Borough Council and NHS Rotherham staff agreed a set of actions to ensure effective multi-disciplinary working and deliver better outcomes for customers.

Members noted that Continuing Health Care and social care assessments are completed by health and social care staff presently or recently involved in assessing, reviewing, treating and supporting the customer. A better working relationship exists, as well as an understanding of each professional's role in participating in a multi-disciplinary assessment and completing the Decision Support Tool for each customer. Reference was made to training available for service providers and their staff.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review of Continuing Health Care be submitted to a meeting of the Health Select Commission in six months' time.

**51. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON RESIDENTIAL HOMES - CABINET RESPONSE**

Further to Minute No. 64 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th September, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Health and Wellbeing setting out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of the Council's two residential homes, Lord Hardy Court and Davies Court. The recommendations of the scrutiny review, which had been undertaken from September to December 2012, were appended to the report, all of which had been accepted by the Cabinet.

The report also included a brief outline of the progress made by Senior Management, Residential Managers and Human Resources Business Partner in line with recommendations from the scrutiny review and progress from the proposed restructuring of the homes and service in line with budget savings and proposals for 2013/2014.

Reference was made to the different view expressed by consultants Price Waterhouse Cooper in respect of the minimum working hours of staff, as part of a financial analysis. As part of the scrutiny review, comparisons were made between the public sector and the independent sector provision of residential homes. Members noted that some of the financial details were commercially sensitive. The report stated that the cost savings to be made in line with budget proposals will have an impact on future delivery of services in the residential homes. Reference was made to the quality cost of provision of residential care, the charges levied upon residents and the proposal to lease some facilities within the Council's residential homes.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review of the Council's two residential homes be submitted to a meeting of the Health Select Commission in three months' time.

**52. CHILDHOOD OBESITY REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 43 of the meeting of the Self Regulation Select Commission held on 22nd November, 2012, consideration was given to a report, presented by Councillor Steele, which contained an overview of the workshop held by a sub-group of the Health Select Commission, with officers from various services in the Council, to consider the re-commissioning of childhood obesity services in Rotherham. The report

provided details of:-

- : the background to the workshop;
- : the Rotherham Healthy Weight Framework;
- : Services for Children (More Life Clubs; Rotherham Institute for Obesity; More Life Weight Management Camp, based at Leeds);
- : Whole Population Prevention Activity (e.g.: with Leisure and Green Spaces and with DC Leisure);
- : Local Plan (e.g.: ensuring hot food take-away premises are not situated near to schools, leisure centre, nor parks);
- : Schools (e.g.: encouraging schools to have on-site policies for pupils and students at lunch time).

Members' discussion of this report included the following issues:-

- : the report about the contract specification and criteria for Services for Children (More Life Clubs; Rotherham Institute for Obesity; More Life Weight Management Camp) will be considered at a future meeting of the Health Select Commission;
- : the twelve recommendations prepared by the sub-group.
- : the provision and take-up of school meals, the healthy options available and also the take-up of free school meals.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the positive work being undertaken in Rotherham on childhood obesity, through the Healthy Weight Framework, be noted.

(3) That the recommendations of the sub-group concerning childhood obesity services, as set out in the submitted report, be endorsed and forwarded to the Cabinet for further consideration.

### **53. HOSPITAL DISCHARGES REVIEW**

Further to Minutes of previous meetings of the Health Select Commission (Minutes Nos. 76 of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and 29 of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2013), consideration was given to a report presented by Councillor Steele which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of hospital discharges in Rotherham. The draft review report was included with the submitted report.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of hospital discharges in Rotherham, as detailed in the report now submitted, be endorsed.

(3) That the report be forwarded to the Cabinet for further consideration and Cabinet be requested to:

(a) provide its response to this scrutiny review to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board within two months; and

(b) agree to the report of this scrutiny review being submitted to a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**54. DCLG TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2014/15 AND 2015/16 CONSULTATION RESPONSE.**

Further to Minute No. 84 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Finance providing details of the Council's proposed response to the Department for Communities and Local Government Department for Communities and Local Government Technical Consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The Council would be:-

- : submitting a Rotherham specific response;
- : providing input to and endorsing the SIGOMA response;
- : providing input for any South Yorkshire response; and
- : sharing this Council's response with the Local Government Association.

The Council's proposed response was included with the report. Although the Consultation paper requests only local authorities' views on six technical questions around the process of determining control totals and feeding in cuts in funding, it is proposed that the Council's response highlights its concerns around both the impact of the proposals on the Council and the process itself.

Members noted that this approach is also being favoured by both SIGOMA (the campaigning network of urban local authorities) and the Local Government Association in their responses and the Council has stated its concerns around the implications of the proposals to these bodies, for inclusion in their responses.

Reference was made to the various views of local authorities, nationally, with regard to the Government's proposed financial settlement.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the contents of this Council's proposed response to this Government consultation, as now reported, be noted.

(3) That it be noted that:-

(a) the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Leader, will finalise the

submission of the Consultation response, which will reflect comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

(b) the Council has informed both SIGOMA and the Local Government Association of its views for inclusion in their respective submissions to the Department for Communities and Local Government;

(c) the three Members of Parliament for the Rotherham Borough area will be informed of this Council's response; and

(d) a copy of the Council's response will be sent to the Local Government Information Unit.

**55. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS' SANCTIONS REGIME**

Further to Minute No. 43 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Policy Officer stating that the Management Board's 2013/14 work programme included a review of deprived communities, incorporating jobs and employment issues and an examination of the Government Department for Work and Pensions' sanctions (as referred by the Welfare Reform steering group). Subsequent discussions produced agreement to divide the review into two distinct pieces of work.

The submitted report provided a brief background and an initial summary of the issues for Members' consideration as part of a scrutiny review of the application of sanctions by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Members noted that Jobcentre Plus will be participating in the scrutiny review.

The report stated that the use of sanctions is part of the 'conditionality' regime which applies to claimants for jobseeker's allowance and also to some employment support allowance claimants, ensuring that they are making reasonable efforts to find and prepare for work.

Reference was made to a number of individual cases, affecting benefits claimants locally. Such cases were usually dealt with by the local Members of Parliament.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a sub-group, comprising the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillors Currie, Falvey and G. A. Russell, to consider the issues contained in the report now submitted and to scope the terms of reference of this scrutiny review.

(3) That the broad timetable for this scrutiny review, as set out in the

submitted report, be approved.

## 56. ASSISTED AREA STATUS

Further to Minute No. 78 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Policy Officer stating that the Government is reviewing the United Kingdom's assisted areas map in response to the European Commission's 2014-2020 regional aid guidelines, which were issued in June 2013. The guidelines contain the rules stating how, when, where and to whom regional aid (a form of state aid) can be granted.

Members noted that the Local Enterprise Partnership areas, including the Sheffield City Region, are asked to identify a contiguous map of priority wards covering a total population of 80% of current assisted areas coverage (based on 2007-13 maps). This Council is also able to make the case for retaining 100% coverage of the whole Borough; however, because population levels have increased since the 2007-13 maps were agreed, this process would still involve a loss of coverage. All Rotherham wards are covered in the 2007-13 map (appended to the report), providing the Rotherham Borough with wider coverage than most of the other districts in the Sheffield City Region (only the Doncaster Borough also has full coverage).

The Government is consulting on a number of elements which will inform the 2014-2020 assisted areas map, which cover the period from 1st July, 2014 to 31st December, 2020. The consultation is made up of two stages:

Stage 1 (deadline 30th September 2013) - this focuses on principles, indicators, local economic intelligence and priorities for coverage; and

Stage 2 (Winter 2013/14) - building on stage 1, this will be a consultation on a draft of the revised assisted areas map.

Local Economic Partnerships, through the Sheffield City Region executive team in Rotherham's case, have been asked to co-ordinate the response to stage one, working with local authorities and drawing on consultation/evidence that is informing the Sheffield City Region's emerging economic strategy/growth plan.

The submitted report included a brief rationale for identifying those Wards which Rotherham could be most prepared to lose from its current coverage, in order to contribute to any required overall reduction for the Sheffield City Region, although a strong case is to be made to retain the current coverage of the whole of the Rotherham Borough area.

Several Members made reference to the implications for various electoral Wards within the Rotherham Borough area and it was agreed that additional information should be provided for individual Members.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the approach taken to identify the Rotherham electoral Wards which should be prioritised for retaining Assisted Area Status and those which may lose that status be noted.

#### **57. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Further to Minute No. 77 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Policy Officer outlining the key points to be covered in a joint City Region response to the Government consultation on establishing a combined authority for the Sheffield City Region. The report stated that, earlier in 2013, agreement had been reached by the City Region local authorities to form a combined authority to replace South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and have strategic responsibility for transport and economic development issues affecting the Sheffield City Region (the following minutes of the Cabinet meetings refer : Minute No. 138 of 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 and Minute No. 191 of 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013).

Members noted the proposed approach of submitting a joint City Region response to the consultation (a copy of which was appended to the report) by the deadline of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Discussion took place on the indicative costs of the combined authority arrangements and the financial contributions required from this Council.

Members suggested that there ought to be joint scrutiny arrangements to monitor the role of the combined authority.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That this Management Board endorses the approach of submitting a joint City Region consultation response, as now reported, which highlights the issues outlined in the report, instead of this Council submitting a separate response.

(3) That the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Scrutiny Manager shall meet with the Sheffield City Region representatives and discuss scrutiny arrangements for the combined authority.

#### **58. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

Arrangements are being made in respect of the forthcoming Eleven millions take-over day, scheduled to take place during November 2013. Suggested issues for consideration are:-

: young people taking a lead role in a scrutiny review of the problem of

self-harming;

: progress with the transport issues considered at the previous Eleven millions take-over day (February 2013);

: discussion concerning the issue of child sexual exploitation.

**59. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH JULY, 2013**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 26th July, 2013, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**60. WORK IN PROGRESS**

**Self Regulation Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Self Regulation Select Commission:-

: the beginning of the scrutiny review of the Council's commissioning processes;

: the Council's Corporate Plan and financial strategy - review of performance;

: forthcoming consideration of the Council's budget for 2014/2015.

**Health Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Health Select Commission:-

: scoping of the scrutiny review of GP medical services;

: the scrutiny review of support for carers is progressing (with representation from the Improving Lives Select Commission);

: participation in the regional scrutiny review of cardiac services in hospitals.

**Improving Places Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Places Select Commission:-

: investigation of standards of Highways maintenance;

: consideration of the gardening scheme for vulnerable tenants of Council Housing, which has transferred to provision by Age UK;



: forthcoming scrutiny review of the local economy, with representation from the Self Regulation Select Commission;

: the scrutiny review of Homelessness has begun;

: forthcoming study of Planning Section 106 agreements and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

**Improving Lives Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Lives Select Commission:-

: consideration of the Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012/13 – with a contribution from Steve Ashley, the recently appointed Chair of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board;

: study of the links between safeguarding children services and adult social care services;

: the report of the scrutiny review of domestic abuse services is being prepared.

**61. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.