ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	5th February 2014
3.	Title:	Child Protection – Information Sharing Delivering better protection for children All wards affected
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The *Child Protection – Information Sharing* (CP-IS) project is an NHS England sponsored work programme dedicated to developing an information sharing solution that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who visit NHS unscheduled care settings such as emergency departments and walk-in clinics.
It proposes to do so by connecting local authorities' child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in NHS unscheduled care settings.
The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child only:
Those with a child protection plan

Those with looked after child status

Any pregnant woman whose unborn child has a prebirth child protection plan

6. Recommendations

(i) That Cabinet receive this report
(ii) That Cabinet give approval for CYPS to proceed with this key
     information sharing project by signing the Acceptance Letter

7. Proposals and Details

The child protection information sharing (CP-IS) project will target specific un-scheduled care settings such as: Emergency departments, Out of hours GP services, Walk-in centres, hospital wards where children are likely to present.

The project will take a minimal change approach by building upon the existing NHS IT infrastructure. CP-IS will be delivered by making upgrades and changes to current systems (rather than developing a new system from scratch). It is working with a range of IT suppliers who supply to children's social care including Northgate, the supplier of the system in use in Rotherham (CCM / SWIFT). North Tyneside LA have been the lead children's services for Northgate Customers

NHS settings can then view the information via a variety of means so that it can access the child protection information automatically from the secure central data store. The data will be accessed via a safe, electronic system, and only those with an NHS Smartcard and the correct level of permissions will be able to see it.

The system will automatically retain a record of who has accessed the child's details, when and from where, and this can be viewed by health professionals. It is also available to the local authority that has a responsibility for the child. This will help to highlight the children who have a child protection plan or are *looked after* who are visiting different healthcare settings over a short period of time, which could be an indicator of continued abuse or neglect.

Neither the contents of the child protection plan nor detailed information about the child's *looked after* status will be made available to the NHS, just high level demographic information. Similarly, information about when and where a child has received unscheduled medical care will be shared with social care, but not clinical information (such as the reason for the child's visit and the treatment they received).

The specific areas covered by the project are :

Those with a child protection plan – *42,700 at 2011/1012 in England (336 in Rotherham as at 31st March 2013)*

Those with *looked after child status* (children with full and interim care orders and voluntary care agreements) – *59,470 at 2011/2012 in England (396 in Rotherham as at 31st March 2013)*

Any pregnant woman whose unborn child has a prebirth child protection plan —*860 unborn children with a child protection plan as at 2011 in England (5 in Rotherham as at 31st March 2013)*

Missed medical and health appointments are often a sign of neglect and abuse, this information will then be shared back with the social care system which will allow social workers to include this information in assessments and the work they do with the children and their families.

As part of moving this forward Rotherham will have to sign a letter of agreement (by the 11th February stating that they will implement the solution between April 2014 and April 2015. The LSCB chair will be contacted by HSIC to gain support for the project as will the Rotherham Foundation Trust.

A national information sharing agreement has been developed which avoids Rotherham having to develop agreements.

8. Finance

The project will cost £8.6 million to deliver over a five year period, but by enabling early intervention and better outcomes for children, CP-IS will contribute to a reduction in the costs of dealing with abuse and neglect that is much greater than the initial investment.

The cost to Rotherham is currently being explored which is thought to be minimal as NHS England have funded the work with Northgate and other social care system suppliers

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Many families of children at risk from abuse and neglect often use different health settings to avoid professionals becoming suspicious and raising concerns with social care.

Further discussions will take place with the social care systems supplier (Northgate) to ensure that the national system meets the needs of Rotherham and that ongoing costs are minimum

Data Protection is often a barrier for sharing information with partners, however privacy statements have been developed nationally which can be used.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The OFSTED inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers takes into account how authorities work with health partners and this project will be seen as both good practice and evidence.

Information Sharing is important and Specific agreements between agencies need to be in place to share this information, however a national agreement has been developed which avoids Rotherham having to develop its own

11.   Background Papers and Consultation

Health and Social Care Information Centre

http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/cpis/needed/factsheetjun13.pdf

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