



Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham **“Making a Difference Across the Borough”**



Annual report 2013 - 14
Forward Plan 2014 - 15



Improving Lives Improving Places

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Introduction



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

Vice Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

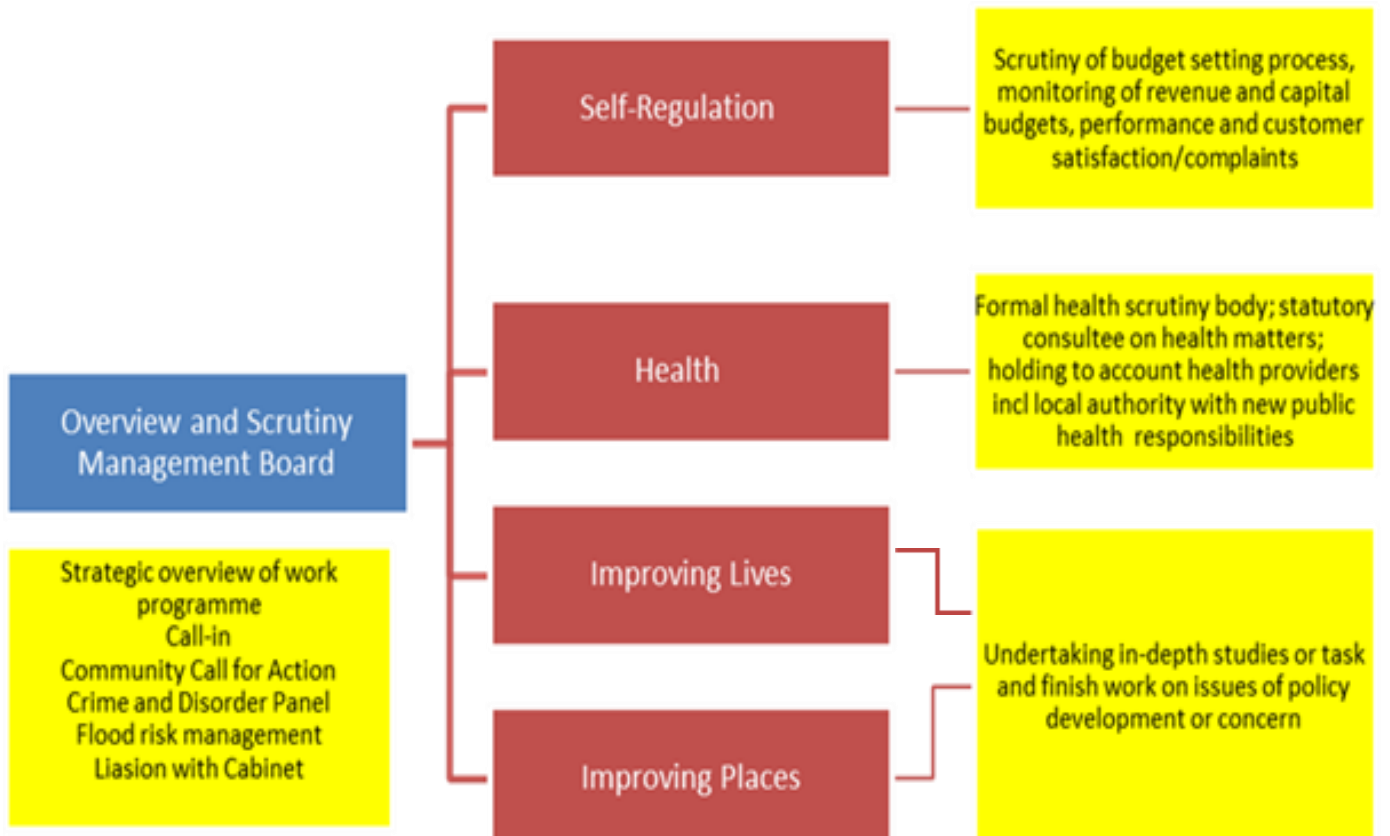
Welcome to the 2013-14 Annual report of Overview and Scrutiny here in Rotherham. The report presents a summary of the work undertaken by our Scrutiny Service during the last municipal year.

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

The structure in Rotherham consists of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported by four select commissions (diagram below)



Introduction

I am happy to report that 2013-14 has been another busy and fruitful year for Scrutiny in Rotherham and that we completed our most ambitious work programme to date, including 11 reviews on a wide range of issues that were identified by the Elected Members as of key significance to the communities of Rotherham.

This report provides a flavour of the work that has taken place and I would like to draw out some highlights here. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board responded quickly to a request by the Welfare Reform Steering Group to carry out a review of the Department of Work and Pensions Sanctions and Conditionality regime. This was achieved and it is hoped that the profile of this review will be raised to a national level to highlight the key issues associated with recent changes to this regime.

Once again we ran a Children's Commissioner's take over day, which was hugely successful. This year the young people carried out their own scrutiny review looking at the issue of self harm and have reported their findings to Cabinet. I was personally extremely impressed with the maturity and thought that the young people displayed during this piece of work. It should also be noted that the young people, during the take over day, effectively held the key partners to account regarding their previous commitments and received excellent feedback about progress that has been made.

Finally, this year has seen Scrutiny not only holding the Executive to account but successfully influencing policy development. A good example was the spotlight review on the Housing Allocations Policy, which enabled Cabinet to successfully refresh the policy to reflect the changing legislative framework within which we operate.

As we have done before, we also like to take the opportunity within this report to keep an eye on past achievements which stretch back further than the previous 12 months. This year I would like to highlight the review that was done in 2011/12 on work with Private Landlords. Given the focus this year on housing allocations and homelessness, this is still very current and the Improving Places Select Commission received a report on progress being made with the recommendations from this review. Almost all of this review has been implemented now and huge progress has been made, for example the successful Homelessness Strategy and Landlord incentive schemes – Rent in Advance scheme and Bond schemes. There are still some areas for continued focus and these were picked up in the work programme for this year. Selective Licensing will be part of the 2014/15 work programme and this remains the main outstanding issue.

There have been many changes to Scrutiny this year, reflected in the Management Board itself. I would like to offer my personal thanks to all of the outgoing members of the Board; Councillors Dominic Beck, Judy Dalton, Jacquie Falvey and John Gilding. I would also like to welcome all of the new members to Management Board for 2014/15; Councillors Shabana Ahmed, Emma Hoddinott, Chris Middleton, Martyn Parker, Caven Vines and Gordon Watson. I very much look forward to working with them all, along with the existing members, to ensure that scrutiny continues to play a valuable role in Rotherham's local democratic process.

We have also changed the way co-optees are involved in the Scrutiny process this year and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the co-optees (past and present) who have given their time voluntarily to add value to the Scrutiny process. I am looking forward to another successful year in Scrutiny for 2014/15.

Getting Involved in Scrutiny

How to get involved

A recent scrutiny review looked at how public engagement could be improved. At the moment our website contains up to date information about the scrutiny process, reviews that have been carried out and the Cabinet's response to the recommendations made.

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/100004/council_and_democracy/740/see_scrutiny_reviews

To improve public engagement the scrutiny team are currently creating a newsletter (Blog) link from the website which will be more "issue based" giving information about forthcoming reviews and updates on work underway. It is envisaged that this will encourage more on-line communication with us and increase public interest in and awareness of the work of overview and scrutiny by reaching a wider audience and getting more people involved and giving us their views. There is a "Have your say" form on the website to contact us if you want to make a suggestion, submit evidence or have any queries about Scrutiny.

https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forms/form/31/en/have_your_say_eform_scrutiny

Another outcome from this review was to further develop links between Area Assemblies and Scrutiny. They are a valuable mechanism for hearing directly from all our communities.

As well as contacting us on-line 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. Select Commission meetings are generally held in the Town Hall.

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

Public engagement during the year

The Select Commissions have continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers and co-opted committee members. Scrutiny Members have also valued their input in a number of scrutiny reviews.

We would like to extend thanks to the co-optees that have served on the Commissions in 2013 - 14:

Health

Victoria Farnsworth, Speakup

Robert Parkin, Speakup

Peter Scholey, Individual

Russell Wells, National Autistic Society

Improving Lives

Ann Clough, ROPES

Joanna Jones, GROW

Mark Smith, Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Consortium

Improving Places

Pauline Copnell, RotherFed

Terry Roche, RotherFed

Brian Walker, Individual

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

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

Children's Commissioner's Day (formerly known as 11 Million Takeover Day)

In 2013, the Youth Cabinet took over an OSMB meeting to discuss transport issues; focusing broadly on safety on buses and at interchanges; and on access to affordable, integrated travel. One year on, as part of the Children's Commissioner's Day meeting, Cabinet Members and officers, and a wide range of other agencies were invited to give an update on progress.

What has resulted:

- Youth Cabinet members took part in a Regional Transport Summit. From this, young people were invited to take part in the training of new drivers, including making a DVD. They also met with security staff at Rotherham interchange to discuss safety concerns. Young people commented favourably on both initiatives and in particular said staff were far more proactive in addressing anti-social behaviour.
- Other developments include the planned introduction of a new, county-wide concessionary transport ticket for young people.
- Following feedback, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive plan to improve communication to share important messages through social media.
- Further meetings are to take place with South Yorkshire Police on town centre and interchange safety to build on the positive work already taking place.

Living Wage

This issue was addressed by the Management Board during one of its meetings, having arisen in discussions regarding welfare reform with Cabinet and SLT. The meeting discussed the implications of a migration to the level of the Living Wage, which would be significant for the Council's overall job evaluated pay structure and overall costs and budget pressures. Potentially additional costs could be passed on to other departments as the majority of the relevant jobs affected work in Traded Services.

What has resulted:

- The meeting considered the full range of potential costs and benefits of adopting the Living Wage.
- The Board supported the proposal for the Council to adopt the Living Wage and forwarded this to the Deputy Leader for consideration.
- The Council has taken a decision to work towards the Living Wage.

Fuel Poverty

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

Membership (2013-14)

Cllr Beck	Cllr Currie	Cllr Dalton	Cllr Falvey
Cllr Gilding	Cllr Read	Cllr A Russell	Cllr Sims

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

What has resulted:

The procurement of three Green Deal Provider Partners. These organisations will offer Green Deal (GD) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) measures across the borough. Rotherham borough will be split into three geographical areas, with each partner receiving an equal amount of GD related work. A proposed marketing strategy has been developed and an area based programme of work, prioritising the most vulnerable, is currently being drawn up. The first partnership meeting took place at the beginning of March.

- A £1.3m funding application has been made to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Green Deal Communities fund. If successful this funding will help private home owners living in non-traditional housing address hard to heat issues in their homes.
- Fuel poverty training and workshops in the Wentworth and Brampton area, funded by DECC and delivered by National Energy Action.
- Willmott Dixon and Mears (RMBC Contracting Partners) have begun an 'ask me' campaign using the principles of 'Making Every Contact Count' to support clients living in, or at risk of fuel poverty.
- DECC LA Competition (2013/14) – fuel poverty: £400k was successfully received to provide loft and cavity wall insulation to private properties, which wouldn't benefit from ECO related schemes or Green Deal. The first phase delivered 108 measures and 120 measures have been identified for a second phase. It is anticipated that a third phase will be offered but it is unknown at present what amount of funding will be available to spend.
- £2.6m of capital investment has been made during the year to improve the thermal efficiency of the Council's stock: 168 homes are currently receiving external wall insulation in Wath, as are 84 homes in Rawmarsh, 3 homes in Maltby and 14 homes in Swinton. 308 Sedbuk Band A rated boilers have been installed so far this year with a budget of £2.8m.

OSMB - our work this year

Children's Commissioner's Day 2014

Context - As part of the ongoing commitment to the Children's Commissioner's Day, members of OSMB supported the Youth Cabinet to scrutinise what support and advice is available to young people around issues of self-harm.

What happened - The Youth Cabinet replicated a scrutiny review, supported by three Scrutiny Members and relevant professionals from Public Health and mental health services, with the young people leading on discussions and questioning. They collected case studies to identify issues around accessing information and support services relating to self-harm. These case studies formed the basis of questioning for providers and commissioners. There were two evidence gathering sessions, with the Youth Cabinet undertaking its own planning and preparation outside of the meetings. Assistance with report writing and forming recommendations was provided by Scrutiny Services.

Outcomes - The Youth Cabinet provided constructive challenge to providers and decision makers; highlighting gaps from the perspective of service users. The recommendations broadly focused on:

- Developing and disseminating a consistent, concise and simple message for use by ALL organisations (including schools, health and social care, youth services, voluntary and community sector) and developing clear, consistent referral routes.
- Involving young people in developing user-friendly information/media messages (including new technology/social media).

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

OSMB - our work this year

- Examining how student access to school nurses can be improved.
- Considering ways in which the service can 'fit' around the young person with appropriate 'out-of-hours' advice/support available.
- Encouraging schools and colleges to establish a forum to share best practice around support and advice (such as work on peer support and strategies to address stress and exam pressure).

On the back of this work, members of the Youth Cabinet were asked to outline their work to a borough-wide conference on suicide prevention.

Community Safety

Context - The Management Board is responsible for the Council's statutory function to scrutinise the work of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and its Crime and Disorder Plan. This year the Board focused on changes at a national level to Anti Social Behaviour policy and how this was impacting at a local level within Rotherham.

What happened - The Board scrutinised 'Total Anti-Social Behaviour' rates, showing current performance and the direction of travel by Rotherham compared to the other three South Yorkshire authorities, by North, South and Central Rotherham and by Area Assembly. They also received a borough-wide breakdown of the incidence of distinct types of anti-social behaviour, including twelve categories and the three overall categories of Nuisance; Personal; and Environmental. They also considered:-

- the structure of the legislation affecting anti-social behaviour encompassed in the Crime and Policing Bill
- the role and purpose of the Vulnerable Persons' Unit which was relatively newly established in Rotherham and was unique across the country.

Outcomes - The Board requested that further consideration be given to resources across the Rotherham Borough and the wider South Yorkshire region to determine lessons learned in terms of improved outcomes.

The Chair of the Management Board also attended a meeting of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel to discuss Rotherham's priorities in light of the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire and raised the issue of resource allocation across the Rotherham Borough. The Board requested and received a further presentation on the Vulnerable Persons' Unit to ensure that they understood its role and how they might work with them out in their communities.

Welfare Reform

Context - This was adopted as a theme for the work of the Management Board during 2013/14, in recognition of its significance and likely impact on residents and communities of Rotherham. The main piece of work that came out of this focus was the work on the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) sanctions, however, issues were considered by the Board throughout the year.

What happened - the Board requested and received information and reports on the following issues:

- Advice in Rotherham (AiR) Partnership, its work with deprived communities in Rotherham and the impact of Welfare Reform on their clients.
- Outcomes from the Census 2011 for Rotherham and the implications for service planning and Scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

OSMB - our work this year

- Reports from Rotherham Partnership's Welfare Reform Steering Group – the Chair represents Rotherham Scrutiny on this group
- Input to the Corporate Plan for Rotherham

Outcomes - This work was predominantly to ensure that Members were more informed about patterns of poverty and deprivation across the Borough and the impact Welfare Reform was having on these. This has been achieved and Board members' awareness of these issues has informed the rest of the work programme, for example, the impact of welfare reform was considered within reviews such as Homelessness and Crime and Reduction. A specific outcome was commissioning the DWP Sanctions review.

Department of Work and Pensions Sanctions

Context - This review was conducted by a review group from OSMB, Chaired by Cllr Glyn Whelbourn. The review itself was requested by the Leader in his capacity as Chair of the Welfare Reform Steering Group. The purpose of the review was therefore to ensure the DWP's conditionality and sanctions regime is implemented fairly, consistently and flexibly, reflecting the needs and circumstances of claimants, with increased transparency and more effective partnership working.

What happened - The areas of focus for the review were as follows:-

- Understanding the sanction process, including how this is communicated to claimants
- The relationship between JCP and Work Programme (WP) providers and the role of WP providers in making sanctions referrals
- Examining local statistics on the application of sanctions, including if possible, the figures for different claimant groups and comparisons with other areas
- The impact of sanctions and the extent to which local partnership working is mitigating any possible deficiencies or inflexibilities in the system and how relationships can be strengthened

Key findings of the review were grouped under four headings - Communication, Flexibility and Discretion, Vulnerable Claimants, and Local Working Protocol. There is one main recommendation, directed to the partners on the Welfare Reform Steering Group, which is to establish a local working protocol with the aim of ensuring complete fairness in the process of implementing sanctions in Rotherham.

Outcomes - The report is still being considered by the Council's Cabinet, but has been received positively. The impact of the report will also depend on the ability of the Council to influence the Department for Work and Pensions regionally and nationally.

OSMB - our work programme in 2014-15

Overall theme - Department of Work and Pensions Work Programme and other initiatives

- * Children's Commissioner's Day
- * Deprived Communities

For further information contact:

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01709 822769 or
email deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk

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
- partnerships and commissioning arrangements in relation to health and well-being and their governance arrangements
- health improvements and the promotion of wellbeing for adults and children of Rotherham
- measures to address health inequality
- food law and environmental health
- issues referred to it by Healthwatch

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

An in depth review was conducted due to concern about apparent high levels of diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Rotherham following steady increases in diagnoses over the previous ten years. Diagnosis rates in Rotherham were found to be consistent with national guidelines and partners have made significant progress in raising awareness and successfully identifying ASD as a condition.

What has resulted:

- The Child Development Centre and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are co-located and now working more closely together, for example on transition between services.
- The Rotherham Charter process offers a package of training, support and accreditation and is being rolled out to an increasing number of Rotherham schools.
- Joint work between the Education Psychology Service and CAMHS is continuing on pathways.

Residential Homes

In light of budget pressures 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 would provide a better understanding of value for money, outcomes and quality of service provision, and the potential impact of budget cuts on this.

What has resulted:

- As recommended by the review budget hours allocated per week for care delivery remains at 25 hours per resident.
- A Handyperson is now employed at each home, reducing costs on minor repairs and improving the fabric of the homes as small repairs are carried out immediately as needed.
- Staff structures were revised and staff appointed to the new roles in October 2013, followed by recruitment for the small number of remaining vacancies, after the recruitment freeze was lifted.
- Revised shift patterns for all staff ensure staffing requirements and service provision is carried out safely to meet essential standards and service user assessed needs.

Continuing Health Care (Joint review with Improving Lives)

In Rotherham spend on CHC by the NHS is lower than that of surrounding and statistical neighbours, which has an impact on the Council's social care budget. Anecdotal concerns were also raised in relation to the service user experience of the CHC process and time taken to receive a decision.

What has resulted:

- A joint NHS/RMBC senior management working group agreed a set of actions to ensure more effective multi disciplinary working in order to deliver better outcomes for customers.
- Local case studies, with examples of completed and anonymised Decision Support Tools, will be used in training to ensure staff learn from the experience of Rotherham customers.
- RMBC CHC champions now attend ratification panels as part of the Multi Disciplinary Team.

Membership (2013-14)

Cllr Barron
Cllr Hoddinott
Cllr Sims

Cllr Beaumont
Cllr Kaye
Cllr Watson

Cllr Goult
Cllr Middleton
Cllr Wootton

Cllr Havenhand
Cllr Roche

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

Rotherham Hospital

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 understand how the challenges were being met.

What has resulted:

This is an ongoing area of work as HSC is continuing to meet regularly with the management team at the hospital to scrutinise their action plans on areas such as financial management, staffing, the cost improvement programme, patient care and quality, service transformation and collaborative work with other trusts.

HSC - our work this year

Hospital Discharges

Context - The key focus for the review was the perception, based on anecdotal evidence, that there was a problem with out of hours discharges (late at night or weekends) and patients being discharged without adequate support arrangements in place. The review therefore considered to what extent this perception was based on the true picture.

What happened - Following an initial report to HSC a focused spotlight review was carried out. The aims were to define a good discharge; understand how to identify a failed discharge and explore reasons for a failed discharge; consider patient experience; and to look at discharge arrangements for those with or without a care plan. Preparation for the review resulted in a commitment by officers to carry out a business re-engineering review of the whole system, which was welcomed by Members.

Outcomes - Factual evidence did not support the perceived problems about discharges as the number of failed/delayed discharges is less than 1%. Nevertheless Members noted the potential impact on patients and families who do have an unsafe discharge. Their recommendations have the potential to improve outcomes for these patients, such as greater involvement of community services in complex cases and improved communications with staff as well as patients and families.

Support for Carers (Joint review with Improving Lives)

Context - Following a Member seminar on dementia and ensuing discussion about the vital role and contribution of carers in Rotherham it was agreed to initiate a review of support for carers. The purpose was to establish the extent to which carers in Rotherham are able to access the right information at the right time, enabling them to access support and services that meet any specific needs they have as carers and also helping them to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

What happened - A joint review was carried out and evidence gathering comprised an on-line survey for carers, supplemented by direct engagement with carers at two events, followed by two small discussion groups, ensuring that the views of carers were integral to the review. Further evidence was provided by Council officers and witnesses from partner agencies in health and the voluntary and community sector. The review explored whether carers generally identify themselves as carers and where they go for initial and ongoing support, as well as how current information could be improved.

Outcomes - The recommendations focus on increasing the number of people recognising themselves as carers and seeking support for this vital role; ensuring that support for carers includes emotional support; developing a multi agency "carers pathway"; and increasing the number of carers receiving a carers assessment, reviewed annually. These need to link in with the wider NAS carers review.

Health Select Commission

HSC - our work this year

Childhood Obesity

Context - A performance update report across all Corporate Plan outcomes to Self Regulation Select Commission showed Outcome No. 21 – “More people are physically active and have a healthy way of life” was rated as red. Following a further report on Childhood Obesity to SRSC a subsequent referral was made to Health Select Commission to consider service re-commissioning.

What happened - A small working group considered this issue over two meetings. The first focused on the local context, Rotherham’s Healthy Weight Framework (which brings together strategies both to prevent and treat obesity) and details of current services. The second included evidence from other services such as Planning, Healthy Schools, Finance and Leisure, as Members wished to explore additional areas that could contribute to preventive activity.

Outcomes - Members noted the positive work taking place already and stressed the importance of connectivity across the Council with wider policies needing to support reducing childhood obesity, which was reflected in their recommendations. Weight management service specifications are being reviewed prior to re-commissioning with a new data management system to enable better performance monitoring. The new school nurse specification has also been strengthened regarding referrals and signposting to weight management services.

Access to GPs

Context - This review was prioritised in the work programme for 2013-14, as Members had raised concerns about waiting times for appointments on the basis of anecdotal information from the public. The purpose was to identify any anomalies, issues or barriers that impact on patients in Rotherham accessing their GP and in particular in respect of obtaining a convenient appointment within 48 hours.

What happened - A full scrutiny review was carried out with evidence from a number of sources including round table discussions and written evidence from health partners, desktop research and fact finding visits to four GP practices. National GP Patient Survey data was analysed to compare Rotherham with the national picture and to compare individual practices. Key aims were to establish the respective roles and responsibilities of NHS England and GP practices with regard to access to GPs, to identify national and local pressures that impact on access to GPs and to explore how GP practices manage appointments and promote access for all patients.

Outcomes - Although this review is still progressing through the Executive and health partners, it is hoped the recommendations will lead to positive changes locally to improve access to GPs whilst the planned changes at national level are being worked through, as patient experience does vary.

HSC - our work programme in 2014-15

Overall theme - Mental Health and Wellbeing

- * Improving health outcomes in Rotherham
- * Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- * Nurses in Special Schools

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

Improving Lives Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Ann Russell

Vice Chair: Councillor Chris Read



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

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

School Governors

Improving Lives Select Commission undertook a review of the role of the local authority in supporting governing bodies and received an update of progress to implement the accepted recommendations.

What has resulted:

- Following the review, Task Groups had been established focusing on induction and training, the role of Local Authority Governors and strengthening levels of support and challenge. These groups had been tasked with identifying and developing areas of good practice, including the use of peer mentoring and training opportunities.
- The development of online resources for school governing bodies to distribute in the winter term.
- Some aspects of implementation of the review have been delayed pending changes to national policy on governor recruitment, which was issued after the review was completed. However, the commission will seek an update in respect of these issues in the next progress report.

Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children

Following the scrutiny review of the Council's corporate parenting arrangements, the Commission receives regular updates on improving outcomes for looked after children. One of the roles of overview and scrutiny members is to ask questions of a range of service providers and assure themselves that children in the care of the local authority are being well looked after. The commission used the guidance issued by the Centre for Public Scrutiny - "10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children?". The questions cover a range of issues which should establish whether the services provided by the local authority and its partners are leading to positive outcomes for children and young people in care.

What has resulted:

Building on the findings and recommendations of the previous scrutiny review of the Council's corporate parenting arrangements undertaken in 2010, officers carried out a thorough self-assessment detailing performance and highlighting gaps against each of the '10 questions'. The commission asked questions about action to improve placement stability and educational attainment; emotional wellbeing and physical health; and how outcomes for care leavers can be improved. Members analysed trends and performance information, including inspection reports, to assess how well RMBC was doing in comparison with its neighbours and against national targets. The commission received assurances that governance arrangements were robust and that the corporate parenting panel, established as part of the recommendations from the review, played a key role in driving performance and improving outcomes for the Borough's looked after children.

For the joint review of **Continuing Health Care** see Health Select Commission.

Membership (2013-14)

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

ILSC - our work this year

Domestic Abuse

Context - The aim of the review was to establish how well different agencies work together to support women and men and their families who have experienced domestic abuse, in order to identify opportunities to work more effectively and efficiently, and to respond to future challenges.

What happened - We spoke to a wide range of witnesses and agencies as part of the review and established that agencies are working together well to protect victims where there is risk of serious harm. However, the review concluded that there are opportunities to work better together, particularly at standard and medium risk level to stop further escalation.

Outcomes - The review made twenty recommendations. In brief these focus on

- Commissioning and funding
- Strategy – to ensure a consistent approach in key strategies to address domestic abuse
- Roles and responsibilities – reviewing the structures, communications and governance arrangements to clarify and reaffirm roles and responsibilities
- Protocol and process – ensuring consistency in assessment by all agencies; developing a standard multi-agency protocol and process to ensure consistency and common pathways across all risk levels
- Prevention and early intervention.

A major development since the review is the mainstreaming of funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates. Governance arrangements have also been clarified to ensure that there is a Cabinet lead. A further update on progress is expected in Autumn 2014.

Arrangements to Counter Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham

Context - As part of its work programme, the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to hold a single issue meeting focusing on how agencies in Rotherham work together to counter child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham and the actions taken to keep children and young people safe.

What happened - In June 2013, the commission received a report detailing the single multi-agency approach taken to counter CSE. Given that this issue is in the public gaze, this spotlight review focused on current activity and progress.

The commission invited a wide range of agencies including health, social care and the police to explain their roles and answer detailed questions. Prior to the meeting Scrutiny Members examined detailed reports and actions plans, including recommendations from the Home Affairs Select Committee, and used these as a basis for their questioning.

Outcomes - ILSC members scrutinised each of the action plans, seeking clarification and challenging performance; holding each of the partner agencies to account. They were satisfied that there was clear evidence that agencies were working collaboratively to raise awareness, protect those at risk and pursue perpetrators. The Commission were reassured that the issue had been prioritised by the

Improving Lives Select Commission

ILSC - our work this year

Local Safeguarding Children Board and best use was being made of the available budgets and resources. The ILSC has committed to revisit the action plans on an annual basis to ensure that progress is maintained.

Families for Change

Context - As well as responding to Safeguarding issues the Commission has also welcomed the opportunity to shape some of the key policies and strategies that could have a real impact on young people across Rotherham. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched their Troubled Families Initiative in April 2012. Rotherham has responded to this initiative by delivering the Families for Change programme. Operational implementation has now been underway for almost 18 months (since January 2013).

What happened - The commission received a detailed presentation on the programme and examined the outcomes of the work – in relation to payment by results outcomes, the impact on families, and learning that may inform future service delivery. Scrutiny members also examined three case studies, which focused on the family background, multi-agency involvement and outcomes of interventions.

Outcomes - The case studies established:

- That the involvement of the lead worker leads to better outcomes for families; signposting them to both general and specialist services and providing advocacy where required.
- Services provided to families are co-ordinated, with a coherent package of support provided across different agencies.
- The need to improve information sharing across partner agencies to ensure 'joined up services'
- Some specific gaps in service, for example, to provide whole-family support for families affected by domestic abuse. However, the Families for Change work has commissioned specific pieces of work with a targeted cohort of families, tracking the impact of therapeutic interventions.

For the joint review of **Support for Carers** see Health Select Commission.

ILSC - our work programme in 2014-15

Overall theme - Safeguarding

- * Domestic Abuse - monitoring
- * Forced Marriage
- * Child Sexual Exploitation
- * Neglect

For further information contact:

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser Tel: 01709 822765 or

Improving Places Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Jacquie Falvey

Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Sims



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

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

Grounds Maintenance

The initial review of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services was undertaken by the Improving Places Select Commission in July 2012. Since that time detailed action plans have been produced and the Commission have reviewed progress against this.

What has resulted:

- Adaptation of machinery/equipment (e.g. different mowing machines/street cleansing vehicles)
- Changes to methods of operation (e.g. introduction of wild flower schemes, areas of relaxed maintenance, and alternative approaches to scheduled work)
- Identification of additional resources to provide a greater number of grass cuts on certain housing sites (Note: the sustainability of this is uncertain due to budget constraints)

Section 106 Agreements

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 ILSC).

What has resulted:

- Establishment of a corporate group of officers which meets regularly to monitor, update and review the Section 106 policy and process and to consider any individual issues which have implications across the various directorates. This group includes the Chair of IPSC.
- In order that the group may also deal with the Community Infrastructure Levy in the future, it has been re-named the "Corporate Infrastructure Delivery Group".
- Members have a better understanding and overview of S106 monies.

Potholes

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 Multihog machine later on.

IPSC had previously considered a comprehensive report regarding road maintenance and in particular the approach to repairing potholes. Members have since received information on the provisional results of the trials of the new method of repairing highway defects (potholes) using the Multihog.

What has resulted:

- The cost of the new method of permanent repair (per m²) is about 30% less than the traditional method of dealing with potholes and has a life expectancy about five times greater.
- Undertaking permanent repairs will help slow down the rate of deterioration of the network.

Membership (2013-14)

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

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

- The new 48 hour target for removing the safety defect has not caused any increase in the number of claims for damage against the Council.
- The Multihog shall be used to support Winter Service and other general works.
- That funding opportunities are investigated to support both the traditional safety defect repair method and the addition first fix method.

IPSC – our work this year

Homelessness

Context - The need for this review was identified as part of the service review and improvements process by Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services and was referred to the Improving Places Select Commission to be progressed. In particular Members were concerned about the implementation of the new Welfare Reform policy.

What happened - Statistical information was provided to Members by the Housing Option Team on homelessness and the Income Team in relation to the effect of welfare reforms, plus details of consultation carried out on both the housing strategy and the homelessness strategy. Members undertook site visits to two locations to examine the various kinds of crash pads available for use by Key Choices. One of these visits included meeting some tenants, who shared their experiences with review group members. The scope of the review included a short term focus on temporary accommodation and improving information available to clients and a longer term focus on sub-regional collaboration.

Members also considered:

- Identifying plans to re-populate the town centre(s) via empty properties, flats over shops etc.
- The partnership with private sector landlords to improve housing choices and the potential impact on the prevention of homelessness.
- An update on efforts to enforce and improve standards within the private rented sector.

Outcomes - Recommendations from the review will hopefully lead to a further improved homeless service and will work towards better partnership working both with private landlords and across South Yorkshire. The response of the Executive to this review is due late Summer 2014.

Customer Service Centres and Libraries

Context - During 2012-13 a number of changes were made to the way the Council delivers Customer and Library Services. These included closure of some libraries and customer service centres, changes to library opening hours and changes to the way these services can be accessed.

What happened - Members reviewed the impact of library closures and changes to opening times, and the implementation of the joint library and customer service model, both in terms of staffing changes and customer feedback and perception.

Outcomes - Members recommended that in light of continuing pressures on service delivery and reductions in local authority budgets the example of the provision of services from the Mowbray Gardens centre be used as a template for centres throughout the borough area.

Improving Places Select Commission

IPSC – our work this year

Allocations Policy

Context - RMBC's Allocations Policy was last substantially amended in January 2010, and needed to be revised again to take into account the new flexibilities and opportunities offered to social housing landlords by the Localism Act 2011, and to make the system as fair as possible. It was also reviewed because of the size of the Housing Register and the likelihood it will increase, to take account of the circumstances of local people and firmly base the policy on addressing housing need.

What happened - IPSC members conducted a spotlight review of the policy in July 2013, in order for them to understand the situation fully and to make an informed input to the member consultation on the new policy. Officers took members through all of the issues with the current policy, what circumstances had changed and provided a number of detailed options for them to consider. This piece of work was an excellent example of the role Scrutiny can play in policy development, allowing Cabinet to take more meaningful decisions with the backing of the non-executive members.

Outcomes – Members of the Select Commission made 15 very clear recommendations for Cabinet to consider when deciding on the revised policy, and included some fairly substantive changes to the way the Housing “waiting list” be managed and operated in the future. In particular they recommended that the general waiting list be replaced with a Register of Housing Need. Other recommendations related to categories of housing need, the way properties are advertised and downsizing. All recommendations were considered and adopted by Cabinet.

Supporting the Local Economy

Context - Due to the changes to Local Government finance and in particular business rates, it was agreed the Council needed to focus on ways to support the local economy to generate an increase in business rates, generating employment and training opportunities for local residents and stimulating the multiplier effect, retaining as much private sector investment in the local economy as possible.

What happened – The review received evidence from a number of Council officers, the Chamber of Commerce, some key private sector employers and the consultant pulling together Rotherham's growth plan as part of the Sheffield City Region plans. Particular focus was on the impact of an increase/decrease in business rates on the Council finances and how some key Council services could further support economic growth - Asset Management, Transport, Planning and Housing.

Outcomes – The review is currently being finalised and progressing through the decision making process. It is envisaged that long term potential outcomes from the review will be increased employability/employment for local residents, with a positive impact on the most deprived communities, and income generation for the Council via business rates.

IPSC - our work programme in 2014-15

Overall theme - Supporting the Local Economy

- * Asset Management
- * Damp and Condensation in Council Housing
- * Selective Licensing
- * Green Energy
- * Grounds Maintenance

For further information contact:

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email deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk

Self Regulation Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Simon Currie

Vice Chair: Councillor Dominic Beck



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

Positive outcomes from our previous reviews

District Heating

The select 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 has resulted:

- As a result of the scrutiny review, officers have moved away from the previous 'silo' approach to managing the service and 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.
- 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.

Budget Scrutiny

Since 2010, the Council has faced reductions to its budget in the region of £70m. Last year, over £20m savings were required. The Cabinet's task to allocate resources is very difficult and the scale of these spending reductions has necessarily made an impact on services and the way they are delivered.

What has resulted:

- Self-Regulation Select Commission continues to examine the budget proposals at key stages in the process; with opportunities to question and challenge Strategic Directors and Cabinet Members.
- Following the 2012 scrutiny review, Members changed their approach to scrutinizing the budget setting process and this revised process in essence holds decision makers and senior officers to account by testing the budget proposals and providing challenge about budgetary allocations.
- Whilst tangible outcomes from this process are difficult to measure, by providing 'checks and balance', Self-Regulation endeavour to question budgetary allocations on an informed and timely basis.

Membership (2013-14)

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

SRSC - our work this year

Commissioning and Procurement

Context - The drive to make cost efficiencies in Council budgets is reflected in the way that services and goods are commissioned and procured. Adding to this, the funding of local government is also changing; with diminishing central government grants and increased reliance on generating local business rates.

Against this backdrop, with a local economy still struggling to emerge from the recession, the review focused on how we can use the Council's buying and spending power to provide quality services whilst maximising support to local businesses and voluntary sector providers.

What happened - The review spoke to representatives of small businesses and the voluntary and community sector. It examined procurement and commissioning practice from comparator authorities and undertook a desktop review of research in this field. In addition, Members spoke to a range of senior officers with responsibility for procurement and commissioning to consider current practice in order to establish if there are greater opportunities for Council's resources to the targeted locally whilst securing best value for money. This review complemented the Supporting the Local Economy review carried out by the Improving Places Select Commission.

Outcomes - Although this review is still progressing through the reporting structures, the review established that the commissioning and procurement functions had contributed to significant savings for the Council. However there was a view that there could be a greater emphasis on the importance of doing business locally within Rotherham to grow and sustain the local economy.

Performance Monitoring – Corporate Plan Outcomes

Context - With the refresh of the Corporate Plan, a working group was set up to discuss how performance information is reported and how this can be used by Members to provide constructive challenge and scrutinise corporate performance effectively.

What happened - The new reporting format is based on the twelve priority areas outlined in the Corporate Plan, based under four themes. The working group discussed with officers the rationale behind each of the targets and offered suggestions where measures could be improved or where a greater level of detail was required. These suggestions have been incorporated within, or have informed, the refreshed performance management framework.

Outcomes - On the basis of discussion with Members, officers in the Performance and Quality team have refined their performance reports. Members welcomed the consistency in approach to service planning and performance reporting, linking it to the wider Corporate Plan. The outturn report will be submitted, followed by a six months progress report. A subsequent meeting will be scheduled at the year end to investigate areas of persistent under performance or service concerns, which may lead to a more in-depth scrutiny review.

Self Regulation Select Commission

SRSC - our work this year

Budget Scrutiny

Each year Self-Regulation Select Commission continues to examine the budget proposals at key stages in the process; with opportunities to question and challenge Strategic Directors and Cabinet Members. As part of this scrutiny process members ask questions to clarify:

- The impact of sustained cuts on performance and the changing policy agenda (e.g. Welfare Reform) and how services will be delivered into the future to meet Council priorities.
- How service changes and reductions are communicated to the wider public.
- The impact of service changes on vulnerable groups, and how these are mitigated.

Our Wider Work

Self-Regulation's 2013/14 work programme has been wide-ranging. In addition to the work outlined above, as with previous years, the work programme has focussed on providing robust challenge through its monitoring of key council processes such as its complaints and compliments annual report and regular budget monitoring.

Given the scale of budget reductions across directorates, the commission analysed the data and trends contained in the complaints and compliments report to see if there was early indication of poor or declining performance. Members were reassured that directorates had robust performance mechanisms to address these issues. The Commission had previously commented on the consistency of complaints handling across each of the directorates, and were pleased to note that there was greater uniformity in the way that customer feedback was addressed.

The budget process is not a one-off event; challenging how well the Cabinet and senior officers are managing the budget is a rolling process. It is worth commenting, that despite considerable and unprecedented budget pressures, the council managed to deliver its priorities within its allocated resources. SRSC received regular reports on the revenue and capital budgets; and was able to challenge performance and value for money. As with the budget-setting process, individual cabinet members and directors were held to account for spending decisions and forecasts.

SRSC - our work programme in 2014-15

Overall theme - Budget and Performance

- * Budget
- * Corporate Plan
- * Workforce Planning
- * Impact of Budget Savings
- * Complaints and Compliments

For further information contact:

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser Tel: 01709 822765 or email caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

Select Commissions 2014 - 15

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 Ahmed, Currie, Hoddinott, Middleton, Parker, Read, Russell, Sims, C Vines, Watson

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



The Board is supported by:

Self Regulation

Chair: Cllr Simon Currie

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Gordon Watson

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

Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Johnston
Cllr Cutts	Cllr Reeder
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Sansome
Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Sharman
Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr Tweed

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



Improving Lives

Chair: Cllr Ann Russell

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Shabana Ahmed

Meets (generally) at 2.00pm on
Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Ali	Cllr Dodson
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Lelliott
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Reynolds
Cllr Burton	Cllr Roddison
Cllr Clark	Cllr Turner

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



Improving Places

Chair: Cllr Chris Read

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Kath Sims

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

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Gilding
Cllr Atkin	Cllr Gosling
Cllr Cowles	Cllr N Hamilton
Cllr Finnie	Cllr Roche
Cllr Foden	Cllr Wallis

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



Health

Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Emma Hoddinott

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

Cllr Dalton	Cllr Robinson (tbc)
Cllr Havenhand	Cllr Swift
Cllr Hunter	Cllr M Vines
Cllr Kaye	Cllr Whysall
Cllr Jepson	Cllr Wootton

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:

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or by email to: 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 بەنگەنامە بە تێبگات یان بێخوێنیتەوه،
تکایە پەیوەندیمان پێوە بکە لەسەر ئەو ژمارە بەی سەرەو دەدا یان بەو نیمەپلە.

Arabic

عربی
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.