

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
20th June, 2014

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Currie, Middleton, Parker, Read, G. A. Russell, Sims, Vines and Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hoddinott and Steele.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW - SUPPORT FOR CARERS

Further to Minute No. 252 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st May, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Director of Health and Wellbeing, stating that the Scrutiny Review of Support for Carers was undertaken as a joint review, during 2013, by the Health Select Commission and the Improving Lives Select Commission.

The review report was well received and provided an opportunity to focus on unpaid carers who provide a valuable support and resource to people with disabilities and to older people across Rotherham. Their contribution is valued, and this Scrutiny Review provides an opportunity to improve the support to carers in Rotherham. The Cabinet's response to the recommendations of this scrutiny review was included as an appendix to the submitted report. It was noted that some of the recommendations will require a response from organisations other than the Borough Council.

The review produced eleven recommendations, which focus on:-

: increasing the number of people recognising themselves as carers;

: ensuring that support for carers adequately includes emotional support and counselling;

: providing an multi-agency "carers pathway" that recognises the journey carers are on; and

: increasing the number of people receiving a fit for purpose carers assessment which is reviewed annually.

Members' discussion of this item included the following salient issues:-

- the implementation of the Care Act 2014, which will strengthen the support provided for carers;
- the recommendations of the scrutiny review will dovetail into the Council's existing processes of support for carers; the Steering Group, managed within Adult Services, meets regularly each month and will focus upon the implementation of the provisions of the Care Act 2014; both the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and this Council's Children and Young People's Services are represented on this Steering Group;
- the regular dialogue between the Council and carers and their representatives; this dialogue ensures that the voice of carers is heard and responded to;
- the recent appointment of Councillor Jenny Andrews as this Council's Carers' Champion;
- alterations completed at Habershon House, Filey, enabling this facility to be offered to carers as a venue for low cost holidays, with their families;
- the different requirements of people who are carers in either the short, or medium or long-term;
- the difficulties experienced by carers who have low levels of income and/or have to claim state benefits;
- the need to work in close co-operation with this Council's partner organisations, to ensure responses to those recommendations of the review which will have to be obtained from organisations other than the Borough Council; Members considered that the monitoring of this aspect of the review ought to be an important responsibility of the Health Select Commission;
- ensuring that children and young people who are carers are provided with adequate support; the importance of respite care for these young people and the need to try and reduce their burden of caring; it was noted that the Barnardo's organisation had contributed to this scrutiny review; however, the principal focus of this scrutiny review had been on adults who are carers;
- the carers who care for people who are assessed at the higher level of need are included as part of the Council's assessment process; however, there are other carers who are not currently part of this assessment process and have limited eligibility to support, although they are able to receive advice and guidance; the implementation of the Care Act 2014 will extend the Council's responsibility to provide support for all carers; formal assessments are undertaken when people receive care from the local authority;

- there will be a seminar for all Members of the Council about the implementation of the Care Act 2014; Members requested further information about the provisions of this new legislation.

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

(2) That the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny Review on Support for Carers, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(3) That the report of the Scrutiny Review on Support for Carers be submitted to a meeting of the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group for further consideration.

(4) That the future monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of this Scrutiny Review shall be the responsibility of the Health Select Commission, which shall receive a progress report about this review in six months' time.

4. SCRUTINY REVIEW - IMPROVING ACCESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING HELP AND SUPPORT AROUND SELF HARM

Further to Minute No. 234 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th April, 2014 and Minute No. 8 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18th June, 2014,, consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning and by the Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator (Integrated Youth Support Service), which provided a response to the ten recommendations made by the Youth Cabinet to improve young people's access to appropriate help and support around self harm. In response to the recommendations of this scrutiny review, the report described a proposed way forward to develop a holistic approach through both strategies, training and service delivery.

Members noted that this matter had previously been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, alongside the Youth Cabinet, at its meeting held on 27th February, 2014.

The report stated that, by responding to the recommendations of this scrutiny review, Rotherham will be able to:-

- : ensure a consistent approach to young people;
- : provide a timely response according to the needs of an individual;
- : evidence that all agencies are proactively undertaking a co-ordinated approach to the issue of self harm in young people;
- : evidence that the voice of young people has impacted on the strategies and guidelines;
- : raise professionals' skills and knowledge to be able to respond more appropriately to young people.

Details were also provided of the many events taking place locally during 2014, enabling professionals and young people to gather, share and impart information about appropriate help and support around self harm, including the launch of a new web site.

Members' discussion of this issue included the following salient issues:-

- children's mental health services and others are producing a pathway and guidance on self-harm which will be available for consultation during the Summer, 2014;
- the support to be made available for young people to help them cope with stress in schools, especially anxieties prior to sitting examinations;
- the importance of including the voice and opinions of children and young people in this issue, to influence the response from the professional services;
- the importance of the use of case studies as part of the scrutiny review;
- the composition of the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Group;
- the need for the early identification of children and young people who may be at risk of self harm;
- information sharing, between professional services and, for example, between schools and parents;
- the role of school governors, particularly in assisting in the prevention of bullying in schools;
- Members congratulated the Youth Cabinet for their work in undertaking this scrutiny review; it was noted that a sub-group of the Youth Cabinet is continuing to monitor the progress of this review.

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

(2) That the Cabinet's response to the Youth Cabinet's Scrutiny Review about improvements to young people's access to appropriate help and support around self harm, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(3) That the monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the recommendations of this scrutiny review shall include:-

(a) the Youth Cabinet's own monitoring arrangements, as noted above;

(b) consideration of a progress report about the implementation of the review's recommendations, at a meeting of the Youth Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, during February 2015; the monitoring of this important issue, in the longer term, shall also be considered at this meeting; and

(c) monitoring reports to be submitted at regular intervals to the Deputy Leader, who has Executive responsibility within the Council for the safeguarding of children and young people.

(4) That a synopsis of this scrutiny review be submitted to the meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of School Governing Bodies, for consideration of the importance of sharing information about the risk of self harm between schools and parents and about whether this issue ought to be considered by every school governing body and members of the Youth Cabinet shall be invited to attend this meeting for discussion of this item.

5. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Further to Minute No. 135 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 20th May, 2014, consideration was given to a report presented by the Scrutiny Manager concerning the Scrutiny Annual Report for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year. Accordingly, Members considered the contents of the final draft of the Annual Report 2013/14, prior to its submission to the Council meeting on 2nd July 2014.

Members agreed a number of contextual alterations to the Annual Report.

Details of the scrutiny forward plan for 2014/2015 were also detailed in the Annual Report.

Members thanked the scrutiny officers for the preparation and quality of this document.

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

(2) That the Scrutiny Annual Report for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, as now amended, be approved insofar as this Management Board is concerned and forwarded to the Council meeting for further consideration.

6. REPRESENTATION ON PANELS, SUB-GROUPS ETC., 2014/2015

Resolved:- (1) That Councillors Currie and Whelbourn be appointed as the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's representatives to the Members' Training and Development Panel for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

(2) That Councillor Whelbourn be appointed as the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's representative on the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

(3) That consideration of an appointment to the Recycling Group be deferred, pending receipt of further information as to its frequency of meetings.

7. ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE AREA ASSEMBLIES

Members noted the emphasis, within the Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14, of the way in which public engagement in the scrutiny process may be enhanced (Minute No. 5 above refers). It was agreed that all Area Assemblies be requested to consider this matter.

8. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

Members again acknowledged the significant role of the Youth Cabinet in the review of improvements required to young people's access to appropriate help and support around self harm and also in the future monitoring of the recommendations of the review (Minute No. 4 above refers).

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 20th May, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

10. WORK IN PROGRESS

Self Regulation Select Commission:-

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

: consideration of the Commission's future scrutiny work programme 2014/15;

: consideration of Business Rates.

Improving Places Select Commission:-

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

: study of the costs and methods of highways maintenance;

: study of the action being taken to prevent off-road motor vehicle nuisance;

: forthcoming consideration of grounds maintenance;

; report of scrutiny review of improving the local economy;

: scrutiny review group chosen for the review of dampness and condensation in Council housing properties.

Improving Lives Select Commission:-

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

: consideration of Rotherham's readiness for Ofsted's new inspection framework of 'children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers'

: continuing the monitoring of issues concerning the safeguarding of children and young people.

Health Select Commission:-

(Written note provided)

: consideration of the Poverty workstream of the Health and Wellbeing strategy, including the study of deprived communities (including the 'ask me about the badge' scheme, whereby Council maintenance staff undertake boiler safety checks and provide energy-usage advice, free of charge, whilst attending properties to carry out repairs); development of the Building Resilience strategy;

: monitoring of the Better Care Fund and associated contracts awarded by the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group;

: scrutiny review of Urinary Incontinence services;

: scoping the scrutiny review of Mental Health;

: NHS Rotherham Foundation Trust – hospital recovery plan (special meeting of the Health Select Commission to be held on 25th June, 2014).

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

: the forthcoming meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, to be held on Friday, 18th July, 2014, will include full consideration of the scrutiny work programme 2014/15.

11. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.