

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Places Select Commission
2.	Date:	Wednesday 25th February 2015
3.	Title:	Young People and Public Transport
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

In February 2013, as part of 11 Million Takeover Day (Now Children’s Commissioner Takeover Day) members of Rotherham Youth Cabinet presented their findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board following their research into issues highlighted by young people around experiences incurred whilst using public transport, including the Rotherham Interchange.

In December 2014, Councillor Read, the Chair of Improving Places Select Commission, requested an update on current issues experienced by young people to ascertain if anything has changed over the last two years.

The update was to include:

- What are the issues
- What is being done to resolve these issues
- Identified outputs and outcomes
- Any issues still to be resolved
- Any new issues identified

6. Recommendations

That the Improving Lives Select Commission:

- **Notes the current position and action taken to improve the safety and overall perception of young people visiting the town centre including the Interchange.**
- **Requests a further update in 12 month’s time to monitor the position.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1. What are the issues

In order to gain a current insight into what it is like being a young person using public transport, in particular the Rotherham Interchange, the following four groups were consulted in January 2015:

- Rotherham Youth Cabinet
- Looked After Children's Council
- Rush House
- LGBT Group

The young people were asked the following questions:

1. What experiences are young people having in Rotherham Interchange, both positive and negative.
2. How can young people be involved in influencing decisions concerning transport
3. How can safety be improved for young people waiting at passenger interchanges – especially late in the evening.

The response from the young people's groups are presented at Appendix 1. The majority of respondents felt that things had not improved when using public transport or the Rotherham Interchange.

Recorded crime committed in and around the Interchange between January 2012 and December 2014 is as follows:

All Crimes by Year by Month

Crimes	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	2	2	4	2	3	1	11	4	3	4	4	4	44
2013	6	3	10	1	2	0	1	3	9	1	3	1	40
2014	5	2	5	2	3	5	7	3	1	4	4	1	42
Total	13	7	19	5	8	6	19	10	13	9	11	6	126

Violence Against the Person

Violence	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	1	2	4	2	1	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	19
2013	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	3	1	18
2014	2	1	2	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	3	0	17
Total	8	4	8	3	3	2	6	3	5	3	7	2	54

- 43% of crimes in the last 3 years was recorded as Violence against the person

Theft and Handling Stolen Goods

Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	10
2013	0	1	5	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	12
2014	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	3	1	1	15
Total	3	2	7	1	4	3	3	4	2	4	2	2	37

- 29% of crime in the last 3 years was recorded as Theft & Handling Stolen Goods

Other Crimes

Other crimes	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	1	1	0	2	2	15
2013	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	10
2014	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	10
Total	2	1	4	1	1	1	10	3	6	2	2	2	35

- Crimes in this category include Burglary in other building, Criminal Damage, Drugs, Robbery Personal

ASB Incident Year by Month

ASB	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	3	6	3	3	2	6	3	3	5	5	4	3	46
2013	3	2	1	0	2	1	5	4	2	2	2	0	24
2014	3	1	2	2	2	1	0	1	7	2	2	2	25
Total	9	9	6	5	6	8	8	8	14	9	8	5	95

- Total ASB incidents have decreased each year

In addition, the following information has been provided by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPT):

There were 40 incidents reported to staff during 2012. Reported incidents more than doubled in 2013 to 95 incidents. This in part was a result of the interchange staff working closely with the Police in targeting problem individuals and collating data and evidence to support Anti-Social Behaviour Order applications and Dispersal Powers. This approach was very successful resulting in many 'street drinkers' and 'challenging' individuals being dispersed from the interchange and wider town centre area. During 2014 reported incidents reduced to 59 as the partnership/engagement work with the Police continued. The number of reported incidents over the last three years compares favourably with other sites in South Yorkshire.

'Millions of people pass through the site every year and unfortunately from time to time incidents do occur. This is often as a result of an off-site matter that either overflows from the local pub or the simple fact that the Rotherham community know

our staff are on site 20hr a day to help. As we face unprecedented budget cuts difficult decisions such as charging for toilets and reviewing staffing levels will continue to effect the public perception of safety and this will be carefully managed to reassure travellers that Rotherham remains a safe place to live, work and socialise' - Daryll Broadhead, SYPTE.

7.2. What is being done to resolve these issues?

Multi-agency working currently in place includes:

- Town-link radio system connecting the interchange with other town centre businesses
- Direct CCTV link to the Police CCTV Control Room
- Shared SYP portal – sharing data on known offenders
- Employer Supported Police – A member of SYPTE staff undertakes duties as a Police Special Constable in company time.
- Dedicated funded Police Sergeant who performs the role of Liaison Officer between the Police and SYPTE
- Monthly meetings with the Police Sergeant who leads the local Safer Neighbourhood Team
- Regular patrols by Police Community Support Officers, Police Officers and RMBC Town Centre Wardens

In addition there is in place the 'See Something – Say Something' campaign, Appendix 2 and the online reporting link:

- <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/incidentreporting/>

The entire borough of Rotherham is covered by a Designated Public Place Order and this power is used by the Police to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour. The introduction of the tools and powers under the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 will enhance the ability of the Police and Council to take swift enforcement action, Appendix 3.

8. Finance

N/A

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Maintaining a safe town centre and travel interchange is paramount in improving the quality of life and overall experience of people visiting, living in and working in Rotherham. The town centre and adjoining interchange is a priority for the Police, Council, SYPTE and wider partnership and this will continue to be the case in the future. The findings of the recent consultation (Appendix 1) will be used to inform/direct activity.

The relationship between perception and reality in respect of the safety of the town centre and interchange continues to be a challenge to the partnership and this is

being considered by the Safer Rotherham Partnership as part of its general communication strategy.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- CP4 -All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.

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