

## Summary Sheet

### Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 18 October 2017

### Report Title

Scrutiny Review – Alternative Management Arrangements for Children’s Service in Rotherham

### Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

### Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chief Executive

### Report author(s):

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Advisor (Scrutiny and Member Development)  
01709 822765

### Ward(s) Affected

All

### Executive Summary

The scrutiny report (attached as Appendix 1) presents the latest analysis and current thinking of the Improving Lives Select Commission’s cross-party review group on the range of Alternative Management Arrangements (AMAs) for children’s services. It evaluates the relative strengths and challenges of the primary options available to the Council. The paper then provides initial recommendations for future management arrangements. The review was approved by Improving Lives Select Commission at its meeting held on 12 September 2017 and considered by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 11 October 2017.

This report is presented for information to share the findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet and Commissioners will be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise, what action, will be taken to implement the recommendations, along with details of timescales and accountabilities.

### Recommendations

1. That the report and recommendations in respect of alternative management arrangements for Children’s Services in Rotherham, as outlined in Section 11 of Appendix 1, be noted.
2. That the response of Cabinet and Commissioners be fed back to Improving Lives Select Commission.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Review - Alternative Management Arrangements for Children's Service in Rotherham

Annex 1 – Full Option Appraisal

Annex 2 – Terms of Reference and background information

Annex 3 – Isos Partnership: 2nd Workshop Summary

Annex 4 – Letters from Partners

Annex 5 – Children and Young People's Plan

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Improving Lives Select Commission – 12 September 2017

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 11 October 2017

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

# Scrutiny Review – Alternative Management Arrangements for Children’s Service in Rotherham

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the report and recommendations in respect of alternative management arrangements for Children’s Services in Rotherham, as outlined in Section 11 of Appendix 1, be noted.
- 1.2 That the response of Cabinet and Commissioners be fed back to Improving Lives Select Commission.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The scrutiny review underpinning this report has been undertaken by cross-party members of the Improving Lives Select Commission. In October 2016, the former Lead Commissioner, Sir Derek Myers, wrote to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Read, and the Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp, commending the Government’s policy paper “Putting Children First” (Department for Education, 2016). The publication sets out a challenge to all councils to think about how they can make and sustain improvements across children’s services, including considering alternative delivery models or management arrangements.

## 3 Key Issues

- 3.1 This report presents the latest analysis and current thinking of the Improving Lives Select Commission on the range of Alternative Management Arrangements (AMAs)<sup>1</sup> for children’s services which might secure the long-term success of Rotherham’s Children and Young People’s Services. It evaluates the relative strengths and challenges of the primary options available to the Council and provides initial recommendations for future management arrangements.
- 3.2 The review concluded that a Practice Partner model would secure the most rapid and sustainable improvements in the short term (two years) and present the lowest risk to the Improvement journey. In particular, its evidence suggested that the Practice Partner model will:
  - Establish the right balance of political ownership, oversight and accountability for CYPS at the same time as rigorous external challenge;
  - Enable the good progress being made on the improvement programme to continue at an accelerated pace with minimal disruption to partners, wider council priorities or management focus; and
  - Avoid high transition and operating costs associated with each of the AMAs and enable spend to be focused on front line delivery.
- 3.3 It is acknowledged that the peer practice partner model is by definition temporary. Once there is consistent good quality front-line practice, the Council will actively consider other options to work with others through integration, collaboration or further commissioning if this would secure more rapid and sustainable improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> The review defined alternative management arrangements as the delivery of children’s services other than through traditional in-house local authority services. For example creating a new entity (i.e. trust) that will take operational responsibility for delivering children’s services or whereby some or all of children’s service(s) are provided by an existing entity or entities.

## **4 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 An option appraisal was undertaken to provide an objective analysis of the range of alternative management arrangements available to the Council. It evaluates the relative strengths and challenges of these options. This is detailed in Section 8 of the report, with the full option appraisal attached as Annex 1.
- 4.2 The options appraisal recommended that a Practice Partner model would secure the most rapid and sustainable improvements (as outlined in para 3.2).

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 The views of Improvement Board partners and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) were sought on this preferred option. Each partner supported the continuation of the Practice Partner model and agreed that it was likely to secure better and sustainable outcomes for children and young people in Rotherham.

## **6 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 6.1 For ongoing discussion with the Commissioner for Children's Social Care.

## **7 Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 The following criteria were considered as part of the option appraisal:
- Provide a sustainable, long term platform for high quality children's services in Rotherham;
  - Avoid significant and avoidable detrimental costs, for example, the treatment of VAT; and
  - Avoid protracted and complex negotiations that may be a distraction from the improvement journey (e.g. treatment of overhead/recharge).
- 7.2 Whilst there would be significant financial and procurement implications that would require careful consideration should there be a future decision on the adoption of alternative management arrangements, these are difficult to quantify at this time. However the preferred option would secure the most rapid and sustainable improvements in the short term (two years) and would avoid high transition and operating costs associated with each of the other options and enable spend to be focused on front line delivery.

## **8 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications from the recommendations contained in this report. There would be significant legal implications that would require careful consideration should there be a future decision on the adoption of alternative management arrangements.

## **9 Human Resources Implications**

9.1 The following criteria were considered as part of the option appraisal and the preferred option scored most highly in this area:

- Builds on the progress made in recruitment and retention;
- Ensure that quality staff are attracted to and stay in Rotherham;
- Facilitate ongoing investment in the development of CYPS staff;
- Engage staff throughout the improvement journey.

## **10 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 The review considered which model would secure the most rapid and sustainable improvements in the short term (two years) and present the lowest risk to the Improvement journey of CYPS. The specific considerations for Rotherham in any AMA are:

- Recognising the additional effort required to ensuring continued organisational ownership of a whole family approach;.
- Clarifying additional pathways and relationships that maybe required to retain connections between critical services such as Adult Services;
- Consideration to budget/demand challenge and mechanisms to ensure continued prioritisation/flexibility.

## **11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 The preferred option would not require any additional equality impact assessment.

## **12 Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 See 5.1.

## **13 Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 See option appraisal (Section 8 of the report, with the full option appraisal attached as Annex 1)

## **14 Accountable Officer(s)**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

### **Approvals Obtained from:**

Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services: Graham Saxton  
Service Manager - Litigation and Social Care: Neil Concannon  
Head of Procurement (if appropriate): N/A

Name and Job Title – Caroline Webb Senior Adviser (Scrutiny and Member Development)

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