

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham S60
2TH

Date: Wednesday, 11th July, 2012

Time: 1.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 5)
4. Communications

For Information: -

5. Health and Wellbeing Consultation (Officer to report).
6. Heart Town (report herewith). (Page 6)
7. Housing Consultation: - briefing paper (report herewith). (Pages 7 - 29)
 - Briefing paper;
 - Appendix 1: draft strategy;
 - Appendix 2: consultation flyer.
8. Rotherham LSP Summit - 26th September, 2012 (Officer to report).

Main items: -

9. Health and Wellbeing Board update report (report herewith). (Pages 30 - 33)
 - Report;
 - Work plan.

10. Planning and health report (report herewith). (Pages 34 - 37)
11. RNIB briefing note (report herewith). (Pages 38 - 39)
12. Healthwatch Consultation (report herewith). (Pages 40 - 53)
 - HWBB Consultation report;
 - Survey to service users;
 - Survey to networks in the voluntary and community sector;
 - Revision to the HW Consultation plan.
13. Date of Next Meeting: -
 - Wednesday, 5th September, 2012

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
6th June, 2012

Present:-

Members

Councillor Wyatt
Tom Cray
Councillor Doyle
Chris Edwards
Ian Jerrams
Councillor Lakin

in the Chair

Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care
Chief Operating Officer, CCG/NHSR
RDaSH
Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families
Services
CCG
Director of Public Health
Strategic Director CYPS
VAR

Dr. David Polkinghorn
Dr. John Radford
Joyce Thacker
Janet Wheatley

Officers:-

Tracy Holmes	Communications, RMBC
Shona McFarlane	Director of Health and Wellbeing, NAS
Jason Page	CCG
Chrissy Wright	Strategic Commissioning Manager, Resources
Dawn Mitchell	Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were received from Karl Battersby, Christine Boswell, Phil Foster, Matt Gladstone and Martin Kimber.

S1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed:- That the minutes be approved as a true record.

S2. JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Board considered the circulated draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. An officer group had been established to support the Board's work programme particularly development of the Strategy and had supported the 2 stakeholder workshops.

At the first workshop, held on 26th March, Board members and partners had been presented with the headlines from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment along with the outcomes from the local health inequalities consultation. 5 strategic themes had been agreed which would form the basis of the local Strategy:-

- Prevention and early intervention
- Expectations and aspirations
- Dependence to independence
- Healthy lifestyles
- Long term conditions
- Poverty

The officer group had then developed the themes into strategic outcomes which presented a desired state for what Rotherham should look like in 3 years.

The second workshop held on 11th April provided an opportunity for partners to agree the 'outcomes' and wording and used then to consider appropriate actions which would be required over the next 3 years to bring about step changes to reduce health inequalities in Rotherham.

If supported by the Board, the Strategy would then be considered by Cabinet for adoption as Council Policy and by the CCG to inform the authorisation process for the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group.

Discussion ensued as follows:-

- Consultation - Press release emphasising that it was a draft Strategy - included on partners' websites
- The document would satisfy requirements for the CCG authorisation process
- Voluntary and community sector would be very interested in the actions and how they could be involved

Agreed:- (1) That the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be agreed and submitted to the Cabinet for recommendation to Council for adoption as Policy.

(2) That all partner agencies post the document on their respective websites.

(3) That the document be proof read by an appropriate organisation to ensure it was readable by all sectors of the community.

(4) That any comments on the document be forwarded to Kate Green.

(5) That consultation takes place including a consultation event, liaison to take place with LINKs

(6) That Tracy Holmes arrange for a press release to be issued.

S3. CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP AUTHORISATION

Chris Edwards, CCG/NHSR reported that there were 212 CCGs in England split into 4 "waves" between the end of July and September, 2012, for the authorisation process. The first wave contained 40 of which Rotherham was 1.

The CCG had submitted all its documentation in accordance with the deadline and had received 363 feedbacks. In September there would be a visit from the Commissioning Board followed by communication in October as to whether it had been authorised. If successful, the CCG would be operating formally from 1st April, 2013.

Rotherham was well ahead of other CCGs.

Chris thanked everyone who had been involved so far.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the CCG constitution, once authorised, be submitted to the Board for information together with a list of the appropriate policies and procedures.

(3) That a presentation be made to a future Board meeting on the CCG.

(JANET WHEATLEY DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING 2 ITEMS)

S4. UPDATE ON HEALTHWATCH

The Board received, for information, the latest LGiU Policy Briefing on HealthWatch issued 14th May, 2012.

It gave an overview of the Legislation and the practicalities of HealthWatch England and Local HealthWatch.

The Care Quality Commission had indicated that HealthWatch England would be set up in October, 2012, and, following representations from local authorities and LINKs, the start date for Local HealthWatch had been put back from April, 2012 to April, 2013.

The Act imposed a duty on upper tier and unitary local authorities to contract with a Local Health Watch organisation for the involvement of local people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social services. These arrangements should include reporting arrangements to HealthWatch England. The Act also made provision for contractual arrangements between local authorities and Local HealthWatch which must be a social enterprise.

Local HealthWatch organisations must produce an annual report on their activities and finance and had regard to any guidance from the Secretary of State in preparing the reports.

Health and Wellbeing Boards were required to have a representative of Local HealthWatch amongst their members.

The Government currently allocated £27M each year to local authorities for LINKs through the Local Government Formula Grant. In 2012/13 an additional £3.2M would be made available to support start-up costs for Local HealthWatch. In 2013/14 the current £27M for LINKs would become funding for Local HealthWatch organisations each year. Additional funding would also be made available to local authorities from 2013/14 to support both the information function that Local HealthWatch would have and also for commissioning NHS Complaints Advocacy.

Agreed:- That the briefing be noted.

S5. ROTHERHAM HEALTH WATCH

Chrissy Wright submitted proposals for the preferred option for an organisational model for Rotherham's HealthWatch.

Local authorities were responsible for commissioning and procuring an efficient and effective Local HealthWatch organisation by 1st April, 2013. It was intended that a formal procurement approach be undertaken given the range of functions for HealthWatch.

Once the preferred provider had been appointed, the annual programme of work would be developed in partnership with Health Watch Rotherham (HWR) in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities.

The options for the organisational model were:-

1. a contract with the 1 provider to deliver all HealthWatch functions – this could be a social enterprise
- 2 a contract with the 1 provider who may sub-contract to other organisations to deliver certain elements of HealthWatch – this could be a social enterprise
3. a contract with a consortium arrangement who had experience of providing specialist functions
4. a contract with a number of different providers with specialist knowledge but they were required to work in partnership to deliver the local HealthWatch brand
5. a contract with a specific provider. This could be LINKs (grant in aid could be provided) or a group of other people within the community

The benefits of working with 1 provider, as per either option 1 or 2, were improved partnership working, customers able to access 1 provider easily and ease of contract monitoring and management.

The report also set out a detailed timeline for the commissioning of HealthWatch Rotherham.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 included the provision that the NHS Complaints Advocacy Service must be commissioned by the local authority, either as part of the specification or the local HealthWatch contract, or as a separate contract with another organisation. The proposals were currently being discussed with NHR.

Discussion ensued on the report:-

- Disappointment expressed at the delay in the implementation date. It was hoped that once the contract had been awarded that Rotherham may be able to accelerate the start date
- Rotherham was ahead of others in the region in setting up HealthWatch
- The tendering process must meet EU procurement rules in terms of the timeline for evaluation and awarding of the contract
- Desire for it to be driven by raising the consumer and patient voice improving the experience of patients and service users
- Consultation was to take place with key stakeholders on the model and specification
- Specification would include voice and influence of children and young people
- Possible TUPE implications – to be built into the tendering process

Agreed:- (1) That the Board's preferred organisational model options be 1 and 2.

(2) That a further report be submitted once the consultation on the organisational model and specification had been completed.

(3) That the Board supports the inclusion of the NHS Complaints Advocacy Service and that a further report be submitted thereon.

(4) That the minimum and maximum level of funding available and activities set out in the action plan be noted.

(5) That the Board supports the commencement of Rotherham HealthWatch as soon as practicable.

S6. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reported that John Wilderspin, Department of Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards Implementation, had written to him stating he wished to visit Rotherham to look for examples of good practice. He wanted to attend a Board meeting to meet Board members, discuss the relationship between Select Commission, CCG and the wider health community.

The Chairman had invited him to either the July or September meeting.

S7. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2012/13

Agreed:- That meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board be held on Wednesdays commencing at 1.00 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall during 2012/13 as follows:-

11th July, 2012
5th September
24th October
28th November
16th January, 2013
27th February
10th April



Rotherham Heart Town

Love our town ♥ Love your heart

Heart Town activity update:

- Steering group established. Four meetings held to date. Representation from a range of statutory and voluntary sector bodies and the Chamber of Commerce. Would like to encourage additional business representation, possibly through the stakeholder event.
- Stakeholder event: 13 June 2012 at Brinsworth Training. Approximately 50 people attended to hear presentations from Cllr Wyatt, John Radford and BHF representatives, including a very moving closing speech from Jo Ward, who in her early 30s had three heart attacks within days of giving birth to her second child and now lives with heart failure. Jo, from Kiveton Park, is a national ambassador for the BHF Mending Broken Hearts Appeal. Participants made pledges for involvement in the Heart Town awareness and fundraising activities and for using BHF resources and services to enhance their work. BHF has already been following up on pledges with key partners such as DC Leisure, Tata Steel and the Rotherham Advertiser.
- September: Big Donation month. Appeal for donations of stock for BHF shops or for recycling.
- Saturday 29 September: One Day event. This will be a sponsored walk/jog/run in Clifton Park and a range of other fundraising and awareness raising activities in the park and town centre organised by the local BHF branch and supported by Heart Town partners.
- February: National Red for Heart Month – fundraising and awareness raising throughout February. Could we light any key buildings in Rotherham red for the month?

Other work planned/underway:

- Mapping of community defibrillators – being led by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Identify gaps and consider where an application for BHF co-funding would be appropriate.
- Mapping of existing cardiovascular services and support to identify where we can boost existing provision with BHF support or identify gaps.
- Establishing a heart-shaped walk in Rotherham.
- Establishing a Heart Town award for local organisations/businesses – a menu of heart health improvement steps that could be taken with a certain number required to achieve the award. This is only in the very early discussion phases with BHF staff at present.
- A communications plan for ongoing publicity related to the project. A joint meeting between RMBC, NHS and BHF comms will be set up following the stakeholder meeting .

Health and Wellbeing Board 11th July 2012

Briefing note on the housing strategy consultation process

Background information

The Strategic Housing and Investment Service has produced a new draft housing strategy and consultation is now underway. The intention is to publish, by November 2012, a 30 year housing strategy (to align with the Council's 30 year housing revenue account business plan), with part 1 focusing on the next three years, i.e. 2012-15. The strategy is concise (20 pages) and sets out the Council's ten commitments (please see below) for housing in Rotherham. Alongside the housing strategy we will produce a robust action plan to deliver the key actions for the next three years, and a housing intelligence report which will contain detailed statistics and other contextual information.

We are taking the opportunity of the housing strategy consultation period to consult on other key documents. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a number of requirements including the publication of a strategic tenancy policy, which must set out the Council's position on fixed term Council tenancies. The Act also allows local authorities to apply restrictions to the housing register and other changes to the allocations process. The housing strategy is closely aligned with a number of other Council strategies, in particular the homelessness and Supporting People strategies, and as these are also being refreshed this year we are including them in the consultation.

The scope of the consultation being carried out between June and September is therefore:

- Housing strategy (main focus)
- Strategic tenancy policy
- Allocations policy
- Homelessness strategy
- Supporting People strategy

Consultation process

The draft housing strategy and an accompanying on-line questionnaire has been uploaded on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/housingstrategy. The webpage also includes the tenancy and allocations questionnaire and details of how people can feed back their views (by attending public events, Area Assembly meetings, completing the questionnaire, emailing or phoning us with their views etc). This has been publicised widely to staff, Members, partners, tenants and members of the public via emails, a press release, attendance at meetings and forums etc. The main way in which we will obtain feedback from Rotherham's residents is via two public events.

The public events are at Springwell Gardens on 11th July and 16th August (flyer attached as appendix 2). People will be able to provide their feedback in a range of ways, including facilitated workshops to cover each of the housing strategy ten commitments:

- We will increase the supply of affordable rented housing in Rotherham
- We will ensure our Council housing meets the needs of the people of Rotherham
- We will help Rotherham residents to access decent private rented homes
- We will help people who wish to own their home

- We will continue to work with energy providers to help to ensure everyone can afford to heat their home
- We will support people in financial hardship and at risk of homelessness
- We will help vulnerable people to access the housing-related support they need
- We will help people in our most deprived communities
- We will strengthen our engagement with communities and individuals
- We will make communities safe

Strategic links between housing and health and wellbeing

There are clearly some important links between the housing strategy and health and wellbeing, particularly in the following areas:

- Decent quality housing
- Ensuring housing meets the needs of older people and people with disabilities
- Tackling fuel poverty
- Preventing homelessness
- Housing-related support services
- Focusing on deprived areas to reduce inequalities
- Making neighbourhoods safer

We will ensure the housing strategy contains appropriate actions to link with health, and will provide an update on the consultation to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September.

We are also planning a multi-agency consultation focus group in August to ensure the housing strategy action plan aligns with other key strategies, and will invite key representatives from health-related services.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 draft housing strategy
- Appendix 2 consultation event flyer

Contact names

Jane Davies-Haire, Housing Reform Co-ordinator

Jane.davies-haire@rotherham.gov.uk

01709 334970 / 07500102498

Zahara Siddique, Housing Enabling Officer

Zahara.siddique@rotherham.gov.uk

01709 334958

DRAFT ROTHERHAM HOUSING STRATEGY 2012 - 2042

Part 1: 2012 - 2015

OUR HOUSING COMMITMENTS FOR ROTHERHAM



Contents

Foreword	Page 3
Introduction to Rotherham's 30 year housing strategy	Page 4
Introduction to part 1: 2012-15	Page 5
Commitment 1: We will increase the supply of affordable housing in Rotherham	Page 7
Commitment 2: We will ensure our Council housing meets the needs of the people of Rotherham	Page 8
Commitment 3: We will help Rotherham residents to access decent private rented homes	Page 9
Commitment 4: We will help people who wish to own their home	Page 10
Commitment 5: We will continue to work with energy providers to help to ensure everyone can afford to heat their home	Page 11
Commitment 6: We will support people in financial hardship and at risk of homelessness	Page 12
Commitment 7: We will strengthen our engagement with communities and individuals	Page 13
Commitment 8: We will help people in our most deprived communities	Page 14
Commitment 9: We will help people to access the housing-related support they need	Page 15
Commitment 10: We will make communities safe	Page 16
Finance	Page 17
Guide to terms used in the housing strategy	Page 18
Linked documents	Page 20
Contact information	Page 20

We have tried to keep jargon out of this document, as we want it to be accessible to everybody, but some of the terms used may need further explanation, and we have therefore included a 'guide to terms used in the housing strategy' on pages 18 and 19.

Foreword

(To be added once consultation has been completed and the final draft produced)

Rose McNeely, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Dave Richmond, Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods

DRAFT

Introduction to Rotherham's 30 year housing strategy

We know that good or bad housing has a direct impact on health, educational achievement, economic prosperity and community safety – all of which are important to the success and well-being of our communities in Rotherham. Housing therefore makes a key contribution to delivering Rotherham Partnership's Community Strategy, whose three priorities for 2011-14 are:

- Ensuring the best start in life for children and families
- Providing additional support to vulnerable people in our communities
- Supporting the growth of a sustainable and competitive local economy

The 30 year housing strategy reflects the crucial links between housing and other key services, particularly health. It sits alongside the Council's 30 year housing business plan.

A picture of Rotherham at the beginning of the 30 year strategy

- Diverse and vibrant blend of people, cultures and communities
- Mix of urban areas and villages (about 70% of the borough is rural)
- Rich industrial heritage and over recent years investment in new areas such as information technology and light engineering
- Population steadily increasing - 256000 in April 2012
- Ageing population – there will be an additional 20,000 residents over the age of 65 over the next 30 years
- Decline in younger population
- Employment rate has fallen below national and regional averages since recession
- Income levels are also below national averages
- The educational attainment of our school leavers is improving each year
- 110,000 households in borough – of which 21000 are Council homes
- Large number of people on the Council's housing register – 33,599 in May 2012
- Vast majority of Council homes classed as 'decent' but significant decency issues in the private rented sector
- There is a low housing demand in some areas and an increasing housing affordability gap between the most and least deprived areas
- The number of new homes built is at an all-time low
- In 2011 18.2% of Rotherham's households were living in fuel poverty, in particular people privately renting
- Low crime rates compared to national and sub-regional averages

More information can be found in the annual Rotherham housing intelligence report.

Where we want to get to at the end of the 30 year period

- People are living in high quality affordable homes of their choice
- Smaller gap between the most and least deprived areas so that all of Rotherham's people can live in safe, healthy and vibrant communities
- No households living in fuel poverty
- Zero-carbon, sustainable residential development across all tenures

This is our 30 year vision, and we will set out how we will deliver this in three-yearly instalments. The first instalment relates to 2012-15, therefore to the end of the current

Comprehensive Spending Review period. During this period of severely restricted public finance, we must focus on making our resources go as far as possible to continue to improve the quality and choice of Rotherham's housing offer. The next instalment, 2015-18 may have a different focus but the 30 year vision will remain the same.

Introduction to part 1: 2012-15

Continuing to improve the quality and choice of Rotherham's housing offer

Wider strategic context

Nationally, the Coalition Government has embarked on a massive programme of budget cuts which has caused us to drastically reduce our planned housing and regeneration investment. The Localism Act 2011 has brought about a number of major changes that affect housing including changes to how Council housing is allocated. 2011 also saw the publication of the Government's national housing strategy, *laying the foundations*, that introduces a wide range of new initiatives particularly focused on 'reigniting the housing market and getting the nation building again'. Another key national policy change, Housing Revenue Account Self Financing, has allowed local authorities to control their own rental income which provides opportunities to borrow and invest over a 30 year period.

At the South Yorkshire level, the Regional Spatial Strategy has been superseded as a policy basis in favour of localism and a new approach to driving house building, based on local demand, acceptance and incentives. Also at a sub-regional level, the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has become the key channel for accessing external funding for housing growth.

Local strategic context

At the local level, the overarching strategic plan for Rotherham is the Community Strategy 2011-14, which describes the vision for the future of the Borough and sets our key targets and actions that all partner organisations are committed to achieving. It was developed through listening to local people, groups and organisations and embracing their priorities:

- Ensuring the best start in life for children and families
- Supporting those who are vulnerable in our community
- Supporting the growth of a sustainable and competitive local economy

There are also links between housing and each of the Council's corporate plan objectives, in particular *making sure no community is left behind* and *helping to create safe and healthy communities*.

The other key strategic document at the local level is the Local Development Framework, which states that Rotherham requires 850 new homes per year up to the year 2027. RMBC has also maintained its Local Investment Plan, a key document that sets out our geographical housing and regeneration investment priorities, although the majority of this remains unfunded due to the widespread public spending cuts. More recently RMBC has focused its interventions on the most deprived areas, as defined by the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010. These areas have, in the main, suffered from long term

deprivation and have featured amongst the worst in the country based on their rankings in the Index of Multiple Deprivation for many years.

In delivering the housing strategy we also need to make links with other important related documents, particularly:

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – an assessment carried out by the NHS and the Council of the health and wellbeing of the local community,
- Linked to this, Rotherham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
- Rotherham's homelessness prevention strategy, which will be rewritten following consultation on commitment 6, and
- Rotherham's Supporting People Strategy (which links closely with commitment 9).

It is clearly the right time for Rotherham to produce its new housing strategy, in order to address the issues that most affect the people of Rotherham, and to align with the key strategies set out above and with our 30 year Housing Revenue Account business plan.

Areas of focus within the housing strategy part 1 (2012-15)

In recent years we have delivered major investments and improvements to Rotherham's housing, some of our key achievements being:

- Delivery of the Housing Market Renewal Programme
- 171 new homes in the town centre
- 132 new Council houses built
- Decent Homes Standard achieved for Council's housing stock
- The number of empty Council properties reduced to an all-time low of 122 (Feb 2012)

However we have many issues to tackle, and we need to focus our resources on the things that will have the biggest impact on Rotherham's residents. We have expressed the areas we intend to focus on as 'ten commitments', that is, the Council's commitments to the people of Rotherham over the next three years. These are:

- 1) We will increase the supply of affordable housing in Rotherham
- 2) We will ensure our Council housing meets the needs of the people of Rotherham
- 3) We will help Rotherham residents to access decent private rented homes
- 4) We will help people who wish to own their home
- 5) We will continue to work with energy providers to help to ensure everyone can afford to heat their home
- 6) We will support people in financial hardship and at risk of homelessness
- 7) We will strengthen our engagement with communities and individuals
- 8) We will help people in our most deprived communities
- 9) We will help vulnerable people to access the housing-related support they need
- 10) We will make communities safe

We have consulted widely to make sure these reflect the concerns and priorities of Rotherham's people (consultation will take place between June and August 2012), and a separate chapter on each of these commitments follows. The commitments can be found on the Council's website www.rotherham.gov.uk and progress updates will be published on the website every six months. The Local Strategic Housing Partnership will oversee delivery of the housing strategy and set the next instalment (part 2: 2015-18) in late 2014.

Commitment 1: We will increase the supply of affordable housing in Rotherham

Why this is important

The need for affordable housing in Rotherham has grown dramatically over the past few years and will continue to grow, for many reasons, including the following:

- The population is growing, and ageing, and household sizes are becoming smaller, meaning more people than ever before are seeking a place to live
- The average household income is relatively low, and with the forthcoming changes to welfare benefits more families will find themselves living in unaffordable housing
- It is harder to secure a mortgage and large deposits are required, therefore more people will need to rent for longer, and more 'intermediate' housing is needed
- The amount of Council housing is decreasing due to the Right to Buy
- The economic recession has resulted in delays to building on development sites (stalled sites) – developers are not building enough new homes to keep up with demand

In 2011, RMBC built 132 new Council homes, the first in over 20 years, which signalled the beginning of a new era with the Council in a strong, leading position to get Rotherham building again. We will continue to build new Council housing, however, there is no longer grant funding available from the Homes and Communities Agency and we must therefore look to new ways of delivering more homes.

What we will do

- We will increase the Council's housing stock by up to 150 between 2013 and 2015
- We will keep the level of empty Council properties low – never to exceed 1% of the total stock
- We will investigate the viability of delivering homes of modular, off-site construction in Rotherham in order to cut down time and cost and ensure high quality
- We will work with private owners and housing associations to bring at least 18 empty homes back into use as social rented housing
- We will maximise the number of affordable homes that can be delivered through Section 106 planning gain
- We will maximise the number of affordable homes that can be delivered through the Community Infrastructure Levy
- We will work with private developers to assist them in building new homes on stalled sites. This could be by supporting bids for Government resources, buying properties to rent as Council housing in the early stages to guarantee cashflow, or working with housing associations to take a greater number of homes on these sites.
- We will sell 10 plots of land to people who wish to build their own homes as this may be a more affordable option for some people than buying on the open market
- We will maintain high quality information on the housing needs and aspirations of Rotherham's people, to ensure we understand where new housing is needed and of what size and type
- In particular we will endeavour to increase the amount of rural housing and specialist housing – for example for older and disabled people
- We will continue to ensure that new housing meets high design quality standards and is sustainable and energy efficient

Commitment 2: We will ensure our Council housing meets the needs of the people of Rotherham

Why this is important

As shown above, the demand for Rotherham's Council housing continues to increase, and as housing plays a key part in people's health and wellbeing, it is essential that we ensure our housing meets the needs and aspirations of its residents, now and in the future.

What we will do

As well as delivering new housing (commitment 1), we need to free up existing Council housing by ensuring that the right people are in the right homes. We will do this by:

- Implementing a new allocations policy
- Helping Council tenants that are 'under-occupying' properties that are larger than they need, to move to more suitable accommodation
- Helping Council tenants who wish to move to other areas, for example for employment reasons, to exchange with other tenants via the national Homeswapper database
- Implementing a new strategic tenancy policy, as required by the Localism Act 2011, that sets out information about the length of Council tenancies
- Clamping down on social housing fraud by training operational housing staff on how to identify potential social housing fraud and take appropriate action

We will make sure that in planning new housing that the type and size of property is right for Rotherham's changing demographic needs:

- We will increase supported housing choices for vulnerable adults and their carers including people with a physical and / or sensory impairment, people with a learning disability or mental health problems. We will deliver more specialist housing for households with multiple, complex needs.
- Households are generally smaller and the new benefit rules and our attempts to free up under-occupied properties mean that we need more one and two bedroom homes. We will deliver more smaller homes, including where appropriate remodelling existing stock.
- We will make sure new housing is delivered in the right locations to meet need

We will ensure the Council's housing stock meets high standards:

- We will continue to deliver our comprehensive asset management strategy to ensure the Decent Homes Standard is maintained
- We will identify and pursue every opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock, where funding is available (see commitment 4)
- We will ensure that new Council housing meets high design and sustainability standards
- We will deliver environmental improvements in order to make our neighbourhoods safe and attractive

Commitment 3: We will help Rotherham residents to access decent private rented homes

Why this is important

Private renting has grown considerably in recent years, with approximately 3.6 million households (16.5%) in England now living in the private rented sector (PRS). Of these, approximately 25% receive housing benefit, showing that the PRS is increasingly being seen as an alternative to both home ownership and to social housing. The role of the PRS is also set to expand to assist in accommodating homeless people, should RMBC opt to pursue this option as introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It is therefore important that we provide support to the sector to ensure homes are decent and well-managed.

We are already ensuring that minimum standards of accommodation are achieved through the provision of Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) inspections, and referring private rented tenants to the Warm Front scheme until the scheme closes in December 2012. However, despite our interventions, we know that 24.2% of vulnerable private sector households in Rotherham are living in non-decent housing, and that 22.8% of people privately renting are living in fuel poverty.

What we will do

- We will consider introducing an accredited landlord scheme
- We will establish an overcrowding policy for the private rented sector
- We will increase the number of houses in multiple occupation which are free from category 1 hazards
- We will develop Landlord Resources page on the Council web site
- We will produce up to date guidance leaflets advising tenants of their responsibilities
- We will promote awareness amongst PRS landlords and tenants of housing-related support services
- We will promote and support local Rent in Advance loan and paper bond guarantee schemes
- We will carry out research to understand private landlords' awareness of the 'Green Deal' and actively market the scheme in areas of hard to target homes
- We will assist owners of empty properties to bring them back into use as private rented accommodation
- We will continue to host the Landlords' Forum and publish regular landlord newsletters
- We will increase access to private sector housing for homeless households
- We will consider introducing a Private Sector Leasing Scheme

Commitment 4: We will help people who wish to own their home

Why this is important

Nationally, 66% of homes are owner-occupied (2010/11) and this will increase steadily as 59% of private renters and 23% of social renters expect to buy a property in the future. The Government is helping social housing tenants and other first time buyers to own or part-own their home through the Right to Buy and shared ownership schemes. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to afford to buy a home due to the following:

- Banks are no longer willing to allow people to overstretch themselves by getting mortgages several times higher than their income. Currently this is compounding the affordability problem. Most lenders are asking for a minimum of 15% deposit.
- House prices have risen in Rotherham but remain lower than the average house price for England and Wales. However, house price inflation has outstripped wage inflation in Rotherham which means that homeownership is becoming more difficult.
- It is documented that there will be an increasing percentage of the population who will not be able to afford to buy their own home in the future

We are already offering sites for open market sale and low cost home ownership and promoting the various HomeBuy products. Equally we are trying to help those facing financial difficulty that already own part or all of their home (see also commitment 6). By doing more to help people who wish to own their own home we can:

- Free up social and private rented accommodation for people who need it
- Help people to access affordable home ownership and enjoy the benefits this can offer
- Provide people with information and support to help them to avoid financial hardship and losing their home

What we will do

- We will continue to promote and market affordable housing schemes
- We will provide information about the new Right to Buy rules to Council tenants
- We will provide quality and up to date advice, support and information on the Council's website
- We will ensure effective marketing of sites
- We will consider self-build and custom build schemes to take advantage of smaller plots and work with small-scale investors
- We will be a point of contact for custom and self builders
- We will work with the Homes and Communities Agency to apply for Government monies being offered to support an increase in the numbers accessing homeownership
- We will provide information to homeowners about making their homes more energy efficient, for example via the Green Deal (see also commitment 5)
- For those facing repossession, we will offer a mortgage rescue package to enable householders to remain living in their property wherever possible

Commitment 5: We will continue to work with energy providers to help to ensure everyone can afford to heat their home

Why this is important

Despite the Council's targeted interventions, in 2011 18.2% of Rotherham's households were living in fuel poverty, in particular people privately renting and those living in pre-1919 terraced properties. We must learn from research programmes such as the Keeping Warm In Later Life Project (KWILLT) and the Warm Homes, Healthy People programme, to improve the health and well-being of our most vulnerable residents. We will work with partners to reduce the risk of cold related illness, and identify ways of helping people out of fuel poverty by increasing the thermal efficiency of their homes and helping to lower fuel costs.

What we will do

- We will continue to work with Energy Companies to improve thermal efficiency through better loft insulation and solid wall improvements and more efficient heating appliances in agreed target areas that qualify for CERT or CESP funding
- We will complete our programme of improving non-traditional Council stock thermal insulation, and are continuing a replacement programme for gas boilers and improving loft, cavity insulation through the decent homes programme
- We will work with private landlords to secure funding for improving the energy efficiency of their properties, through Energy Company Obligations (ECO)
- We will positively seek opportunities to enable Council tenants that are under-occupying, to downsize to a home they can afford to heat
- We will enter into a partnership with a Green Deal Provider
- We will continue under the 30 year business plan to upgrade and improve the thermal qualities of Council housing stock
- We will work with local residents and partners to raise awareness and promote the opportunity to access green deal funding, and seek a whole street approach in more vulnerable areas
- We will raise awareness on self help low cost measures which can aid energy efficiency
- We will ensure that any new Council houses we build after 2013 meet the zero emissions target
- We will produce a revised affordable warmth strategy that will enable and provide opportunities for all Rotherham residents to live in warmer homes

Commitment 6: We will support people in financial hardship and at risk of homelessness

Why this is important

Central Government announced significant changes to the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Scheme in April 2011. Many aspects of welfare reform will have a direct impact on housing providers and those in social and private accommodation. These measures have the potential to lead to increases in homelessness, evictions, child poverty and debt. The Council has taken a pro-active approach to preventing people getting into financial hardship and being at risk of losing their home. The Council carries out statutory homeless duties but 'prevention is better than cure', and so primarily focuses on preventing homelessness. The Council has seen positive results however due to the radically changing culture and economic climate this work has to continue and is a key part of our Housing Strategy.

What we will do

- We will continue to finance and support The Rent in Advance Scheme and paper bond schemes (which help to prevent possible evictions and homelessness), and we will pilot an alternative bond scheme that would offer a recycled bond fund
- We will increase the Homelessness Prevention Advice Service available in the community
- We will develop and implement personalised services to help sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness across the Sub Region
- We will provide information about the 'Impact of Welfare Reform' and signpost customers, via housing benefit letters, to homelessness prevention advice. This will help to ensure that individuals who are either providing or in receipt of services are well prepared for the changes.
- We will train staff on welfare reform and undertake welfare reform advice drop-ins
- We will refresh and update the RMBC private rented sector webpages to ensure information is up to date and appropriate, including signposting to Action Housing who have been awarded a 3 year contract to provide support to tenants within the Private rented sector, through the Supporting People Programme
- We will support local agencies to ensure that vulnerable tenants have access to affordable services, assistance and advice
- Through the Supporting People programme and the Young Persons Moving On Panel we will support the reduction in tenancy failure particularly for young people aged 16-25
- We will encourage homeless households to consider the opportunities that the private rented sector has to offer
- We will work in partnership to provide information sessions on homelessness prevention for school children

Commitment 7: We will strengthen our engagement with communities and individuals

Why this is important

RMBC has a strong track record in providing effective community engagement and empowerment opportunities to tenants and residents. Key democratic channels are Area Assemblies, and Council tenants and leaseholders can get involved via Area Housing Panels and the Quality and Standards Challenge group. The Localism Act 2011 further emphasises the importance of community empowerment and ownership and we must continue to strengthen existing channels and find new ways of empowering residents.

What we will do

- We will continue to support RotherFed and strengthen our partnership working to deliver empowerment and community engagement opportunities to tenants and residents
- Following the review of Area Housing Panels, we will continue to support these including training for tenants, and strengthen the links with Area Assemblies and RMBC
- We will provide support to community groups to help them compete for available funding opportunities
- Community Right to Build - the Localism Act gives new powers to communities to shape their area through neighbourhood planning and a community right to build. It provides planning consent for developments without the need for a planning application. The Council will provide information to any interested parties.
- We will continue to provide tenants and residents with information about the Right to Manage.

Commitment 8: We will help people in our most deprived communities

Why this is important

Priority neighbourhoods have been identified using the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010 data. According to the IMD these are typically areas of poor housing and environment, low adult skills, poor educational attainment and participation, high disability rates, poor health, high levels of worklessness and crime hotspots. We know that to create sustainable communities in Rotherham we need to focus on our priority communities and take collaborative action. We have a detailed understanding of the nature and the scale of the challenges Rotherham faces in creating sustainable communities and where we need to focus our efforts in the future.

We recognise that not all areas require the same level of investment. With limited resources we have to look to target services and resources in these priority neighbourhoods to ensure the gap between these areas and the rest of Rotherham is significantly reduced in the future.

- We know that 15% of the Borough's population live within these priority neighbourhoods
- There are high concentrations of vulnerable families and individuals in these areas
- To make a difference we need to join up our physical investment with our social investment to improve these neighbourhoods

What we will do

- We will identify a baseline position of total spend and resources in each of the areas, including partner contributions
- We will ensure our Partners are committed to shifting mainstream resources into areas of greatest need
- We will carry out an analysis and needs assessment for each priority neighbourhood
- We will ensure leadership across all levels of the partnership so that issues are tackled and partners are accountable
- We will develop robust operational and community engagement mechanisms
- We will put in place a small operational team who can help coordinate activity, and engage with the local community
- We will put mechanisms in place to encourage these neighbourhoods to access resources and services they need to improve their own lives
- We will put in place an improvement plan for each area based on needs analysis and consultation
- We will increase community confidence by implementing a number of quick wins to tackle the most urgent issues, and maintaining regular communication with the residents
- We will provide a high level of visible staff working in these areas. particularly at night when issues occur
- We will ensure that housing-related support services are targeted at the most deprived communities

Commitment 9: We will help people to access the housing-related support they need

Why this is important

Good housing and support services for vulnerable people can assist people to live healthy, independent lives and reduce the pressure on families and carers. By providing the appropriate accommodation, advice and support or home adaptations, we can prevent costs to the NHS and social care. Housing related support provides prevention and early intervention to vulnerable and excluded groups to support the maintenance of independence and / or the move from supported / temporary accommodation to independence. This housing strategy sits alongside Rotherham's Supporting People programme whose main aim is to enable individuals to live independently within their own tenancy, preventing homelessness, and social exclusion.

What we will do

- Disabled Facilities Grant helps to fund the provision of adaptations that enable disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their homes. We will continue to support this programme.
- Rotherham presently has a successful handyperson service delivered by Rotherham Stay Put and (Yorkshire Housing) funded through Supporting People. A range of services are offered including advice, hospital discharge and moving to a more manageable property. We will continue to signpost residents to this service.
- As stated in commitments 1 and 2, we will deliver more specialist housing for older people and disabled person units, which will be 'client led' so they are specifically adapted to suit individual requirements
- We will continue to provide furniture solutions to enable vulnerable residents to access private rented accommodation
- In order to better equip residents of vulnerable groups to become good responsible tenants, it is proposed that an Accredited Tenant Scheme for Vulnerable Groups be established in Rotherham. This scheme would be aimed at educating would be tenants and tenants having difficulties in existing properties, on how to behave and conduct themselves as responsible tenants.
- Any new scheme delivered in partnership with the Council will incorporate Lifetime Homes standards
- We will make sure that housing, homelessness and Supporting People services are well-coordinated, to ensure that all individuals who need housing related support have equal access to services

Commitment 10: We will make communities safe

Why this is important

Crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and concerns about being a victim are significant issues for many Rotherham residents, despite low recorded crime and ASB rates compared to national and sub-regional averages. Crime, ASB and feeling safe in their communities remain high on residents' lists of priorities.

The impact that crime and ASB has on the lives of vulnerable victims can be particularly harmful and identifying and supporting those vulnerable individuals is a key priority for the Council and its partners.

Our residents have the right to feel safe in their own home, on the streets and to live free from crime and ASB that affects their quality of life. Tackling these issues through a combination of prevention, diversion and enforcement activities is vital to making people feel safer and improving their quality of life.

What we will do

- We will put in place a faster response to ASB issues through integrating the role of the Housing Champions and ASB Officers
- We will introduce a new risk management process to enable us to identify vulnerable victims of crime / ASB earlier and intervene much more effectively with the problems they are experiencing
- We will ensure the timely and effective use of the tools and powers available to us to tackle crime and ASB in our communities.
- We will robustly address drug related criminality in our communities, particularly cannabis cultivation in Council owned properties, and take swift and effective enforcement action in line with our Tenancy Agreement and in partnership with South Yorkshire Police and other partners
- We will Increase ASB case resolution rates and updates to customers on progress
- We will reduce the incidents of harm caused by rogue traders and those who deal in illicit products
- We will protect local residents by undertaking a programme of environmental improvements for Closed Landfill sites and industrial emissions
- We will endeavour to achieve Secured by Design standards for all new Council housing
- We will endeavour to protect individuals subject to domestic abuse through MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference)
- We will ensure all Council staff are aware of their responsibility to report concerns regarding the safety of individuals to the appropriate Safeguarding team

Finance

Each of the actions in this strategy is included in the housing strategy action plan. Some of them will be funded from within existing budgets and staff resources, whereas others require additional funding.

Housing Revenue Account Reform has given Rotherham greater control over our housing budget and how we spend it. The Council has projected the money available over the next 30 years, mainly through rental income, and set out its investment priorities in the Housing Revenue Account business plan. These priorities include:

- Maintenance of housing stock
- Local authority new housing
- Improving the energy efficiency of housing stock
- Remodelling housing stock to meet changing need
- Environmental improvement works such as paving and lighting
- Structural works such as roof replacement programmes

The Council is able to borrow against the future rental income and many of the larger projects will be funded in this way. Priority is being awarded, in the business plan, to increasing investment in the Council stock for example increasing the repairs and maintenance budget by £1m per year.

Projects that focus on the private sector, i.e. home owners and private rented accommodation, are generally financed through the Council's General Fund.

Although we are no longer able to access direct grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, there are some sources of external finance we can bid for that are controlled either by the HCA or the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, such as

- Getting Britain Building
- Growing Places Fund
- Empty Homes Fund

We will identify and pursue every potential funding opportunity to help us to deliver our commitments.

We also receive New Homes Bonus, which is an annual grant paid to local authorities based on the number of new homes and the number of empty properties brought back into use during the year, and includes an 'affordability bonus' for new affordable housing. Part of this payment each year will be used to deliver projects set out in the housing strategy.

Some pots of Government money are not directly accessible by the Council, but can be accessed by residents, community groups or landlords, and the Council in its strategic and enabling role will provide support, where possible, to enable people to access this, for example Green Deal funding and the Community Energy Saving Programme.

Guide to terms used in the housing strategy (A-Z)

Affordable housing is aimed at assisting households who are in housing need and unable to afford open market housing. It can either be social rented housing (from the Council or a housing association) or intermediate housing (low cost home ownership). More information can be found on the Council's website.

Category 1 hazards: Hazard identified under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System that is deemed to be serious and high risk. More information can be found at www.direct.gov.uk.

CERT and CESP funding: Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Community Energy Saving Programme funding to improve the energy efficiency of housing. More information can be found at www.decc.gov.uk.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): The Community Infrastructure Levy will help to harness the value of an increased range of planning permissions to generate additional infrastructure funding and thereby unlock housing growth. More information can be found at www.communities.gov.uk.

Comprehensive Spending Review: The HM Treasury led process that allocates public expenditure, the current CSR fixes spending budgets for each Government department up to 2014/15.

Custom Build: The government has announced a funding pot to assist Developers, housing associations and community groups to bring forward "Custom Build" housing schemes, whereby individuals or groups will commission or build their own homes either as part of a larger site or on small areas of land.

Decent Homes Standard: Housing standard designed to measure the condition of public sector stock, achieved for RMBC's housing by December 2010.

Energy Company Obligations (ECO): This funding is raised by energy companies from their customers' fuel bills and is spent on carbon reduction measures. ECO will subsidise the green deal by tackling fuel poverty and hard-to-treat properties, where the works would cost more than the savings made.

Fuel poverty: Defined by the Government as a household that needs to spend more than 10% of household income to heat their home. Fuel poverty is caused primarily by a combination of low income and poor energy efficiency in the home.

Green Deal: Government initiative that is designed to encourage business and home owners to employ more green technologies in their properties. Costs are repaid through energy bill over a period of time.

HomeBuy products: Shared ownership and affordable housing schemes such as Newbuild Homebuy, FirstBuy, Rent to homebuy and social homebuy.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA): Joins up the delivery of housing and regeneration under one roof, bringing together the functions of English Partnerships, the investment functions of the Housing Corporation, the Academy for Sustainable Communities, and key housing and regeneration programmes previously delivered by Communities and Local Government, including the Thames Gateway, Housing Market Renewal, Decent Homes. See www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

Houses in multiple occupation (HMO): Dwellings with more than one household living in them.

Housing Market Renewal Programme: A programme (now ended) to rebuild housing markets and communities in parts of the North and the Midlands where demand for housing is relatively weak and which have seen a significant decline in population, dereliction, poor services and poor social conditions as a result.

Housing Revenue Account reform: Change to the housing finance system which was formerly based on a complex subsidy system controlled by central Government. Councils are now able to keep their rental income, service their own debt and control housing finance.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) establishes the current and future health and social care needs of a population, leading to improved outcomes and reductions in health inequalities. The JSNA informs the priorities and targets set by Local Area Agreements,

leading to agreed commissioning priorities that will improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities throughout the Borough.

Lifetime Homes: Have 16 design features that ensure that these homes meet the needs of most households. They have accessibility and adaptability built in at the design stage so that a household's home can be easily and cheaply adapted to meet their changing needs.

Local Development Framework (LDF): A portfolio of documents comprising local development and planning documents, the statement of community involvement, a local development scheme and an annual monitoring report.

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP): A partnership between local authorities and businesses to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.

Local Strategic Partnership: Multi-agency body of local service providers, the private sector and the broader local community with the objective of agreeing a holistic approach to solving problems with a common vision, agreed objectives and pooled expertise.

New Homes Bonus: An incentive scheme to encourage house building by offering the local authority extra money for every newly built home and empty properties brought back into use.

Paper bond guarantee schemes: This is where a private landlord agrees to a 'paper bond' rather than a deposit.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): Regional level planning frameworks introduced in 2004 and revoked in July 2010.

Rent in Advance loan: The Rent in Advance Scheme is where loans are offered to potentially homeless people to assist in accessing accommodation in the private rented sector. More information can be found on the Council's website.

Right to Buy (RTB): Government scheme to enable Council tenants to purchase their home at a discount.

RotherFed: Independent organisation bringing together tenants and residents of Rotherham – www.rotherfed.org.uk

Rotherham housing intelligence report: Report that sets out key facts about housing in Rotherham such as housing needs survey results, market values, housing needs in different areas etc. Available on the Council's website from November 2012.

Rotherham Partnership: See Local Strategic Partnership

Rural Exception Policy: Planning policy which will allow more new homes to be built for local people in villages with a population of less than 3000 people.

Section 106 planning gain: Through negotiation, a planning condition can be imposed whereby a proportion of new homes must be made available for affordable housing.

Secured by Design: Housing design standard based on a crime-prevention initiative which supports the principles of 'designing out crime'

Under-occupation: When people are living in homes that are larger than their need for the number of people in the household.

Warm Front scheme: Government grants for insulation.

Linked documents

- Rotherham's Annual Housing Intelligence Report (to be published in November 2012)
- Housing strategy action plan (to be published alongside the strategy in November 2012)
- New allocations policy (to be published in November 2012)
- Strategic tenancy policy (to be published in November 2012)
- HRA 30 year Business Plan
- Rotherham's homelessness strategy
- Rotherham's Supporting People strategy
- Rotherham's Community Strategy
- Rotherham's Corporate Plan
- Rotherham's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Rotherham's Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Rotherham's Local Development Framework / Core Strategy (2009–2026)
- Rotherham's Local Investment Plan
- National housing strategy: *Laying the Foundations*
- Localism Act

Contact information

Strategic housing and Investment Service
Strategichousing@rotherham.gov.uk
01709 334970 or 01709 334958

If you require this document in a different format please call the number above to discuss your requirements.

This draft was issued by RMBC in June 2012

ROTHERHAM HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION EVENTS

**Springwell Gardens
Community
Centre**

Eastwood View
Springwell Gardens
Rotherham S65 1NG



- Wednesday 11th July 10am - 1pm**
- Thursday 16th August 3 - 6pm**

The Council is developing a new Housing Strategy and we want to talk to as many of Rotherham's residents as possible, to make sure we have got it right.

We are consulting a wide range of people from June to September, and we would like to invite you to attend one of our two consultation events.

You can also complete our online questionnaire by visiting the council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/housingstrategy

For more information contact:
Strategic Housing and Investment Service
Tel: 01709 334958
Email: strategichousing@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham 
Metropolitan
Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Health and Wellbeing Board
2.	Date:	11 July 2012
3.	Title:	Work Plan Update and Reflections on Progress
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board is nearing the end of its first 12 months in operation. This report provides the board with an overview and update on progress for the year one priority actions as set out in the Board's work plan for 2011/12.

It will also be important for the board to reflect on its progress to date and consider how the board is operating, relationships between partners and where shared learning from the national Health and Wellbeing Board learning sets can be implemented to achieve continued success. To enable a valuable discussion to happen, it is proposed that a structured questionnaire be prepared for board members to consider, the results of which will then form the basis of a reflective session at the board meeting in September.

6. Recommendations

That the Health and wellbeing Board:

- **Notes the progress on the year one work plan**
- **Agrees to complete a structured questionnaire on the effectiveness of the board during its first year**
- **An analysis of the feedback from this questionnaire is presented to the board during its meeting in September**

7. Proposals and Details

The Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has been in operation for 12 months in September. It is therefore timely for board members to reflect on the achievements of the board to date; including the progress of the year one work plan, the way in which the board has been operating and relationships between the key partners.

7.1 Year One Work Plan

The attached work plan, which includes year one priorities for the board, demonstrates what has been achieved to date and where further work may need to be continued into the second year plan.

The key activity completed in year one includes:

- The completed refresh and sign-off of the Rotherham JSNA
- A Rotherham Health Inequalities Summit
- Development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The JHWS will be crucial for informing the forward plan for the Board, and includes a set of actions which the board will need to deliver on over the next three years.

There is also a wealth of resources available which are coming out of the national Action Learning Sets for Health and Wellbeing Boards. Each learning set has contributed to a set of products to be used by Boards to support them in continuing to develop ahead of taking on statutory responsibilities in April 2013. Board members are asked to consider which of these may be of use to them to build into their work plan going forward.

Summary of Action Learning Set Products

Making best use of collective resources - This summary guide is meant to help health and wellbeing boards understand how to collectively use the resources available in their local area. Money is one part of this, but the guide also highlights how other kinds of resources can be used collaboratively to greater effect.

Health Impact assessments – a useful tool for Health and wellbeing Boards - This document provides an overview of the health impact assessment (HIA) process. A HIA is a tool that enables health and wellbeing boards to assess what impact a particular change of policy or new development, service or strategy will have on the health of the local population. It is particularly valuable in bringing a public health perspective to decision making areas that are traditionally viewed as being outside the remit of public health, for example, transport, employment, spatial planning and land use. This resource provides examples of this process for practical use.

Health and Wellbeing Boards and children, young people and families – this resource looks at how HWBBs can make an effective contribution to improving health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people. It includes key factors for success and challenges for boards to consider.

Children and young people and health and wellbeing: review of documents - This briefing summarises the key policy documents on children and young people's health and wellbeing that have been published over the last two years. It provides a useful literature review to members of health and wellbeing boards on an issue where local inter-agency cooperation is much needed, and where there have recently been several significant policy developments.

A guide to governance for Health and Wellbeing Boards – This resource offers guidance on the role of Health and wellbeing boards giving oversight and strategic leadership across many complex organisations and systems.

Patient and public engagement for Health and Wellbeing Boards - Engaging patients and the public in the commissioning and provision of services is recognised as best practice and is also a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act (2012). However, the multiplicity of models and definitions for patient and public engagement (PPE) can make decisions about 'how' and 'when' to engage appear difficult. This resource offers some insight into best practice around this issue.

Useful resources for Health and Wellbeing Boards – provides useful information and contacts for health and wellbeing boards and members.

7.2 Reflection Session

At the Board meeting in September, John Wilderspin (National Director of Health and Wellbeing Board Implementation, Dept. of Health) will be in attendance to observe the Rotherham HWBB. The purpose of this visit will be to see the work being done locally to establish the board and to gather insights and learning for the development of HWBBs nationally. It will also be an opportunity for John to share any knowledge and experience which has been learnt at a national level.

The existing work programme includes for the board to have a reflection session at the meeting in September. John's attendance at this session provides an excellent opportunity to not just consider the progress of the board – it will allow us to benefit from his insight from a national perspective and allow John to take away the views from board members.

To ensure this session provides real, meaningful insight into how the board is maturing, it is proposed that a structured questionnaire is developed for individual board members to take away and consider. Responses to this questionnaire will be needed by 8 August, to allow for these to be collated and analysed, and presented back to the board in September; providing the basis for the discussion.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications directly related to the contents of this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The board has been successful in achieving the key priorities set out for year one. To ensure this success continues, and to ensure the board is in a position to take on statutory responsibilities from April 2013, it will be important to reflect on the way in which the board has been developing, including the relationships between partners and progress of key actions required.

Having an agreed work plan for the Board will also be integral to its future development and success.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The strategic plan for the Board for the next three years is set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is currently published in draft form whilst we seek views from local people and professionals.

Part of the implementation of the local strategy and to ensure we deliver on the priorities and actions, will be to have a performance management framework in place. The Board will monitor this framework to ensure we are delivering what we set out to do and the work plan will need to reflect this.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Health and Wellbeing Board year one work plan (attached)

Useful resources for Health and Wellbeing Boards (attached)

Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15

12 Contacts

Kate Green

Policy Officer

Commissioning, Policy and Performance

Kate.green@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
2.	Date:	11 July 2012
3.	Title:	Planning and Health
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Feedback on planning activity and Health outcomes

6. Recommendations

That the Planning Service:

- engage with Health Improvement colleagues, as already agreed, when developing policies for sites and policies document (Autumn 2012)
 - Liaise with and establish contact and criteria for notification / consultation on planning applications to ensure NHS views are taken into consideration on appropriate applications
 - Liaise when drawing up charging schedule for infrastructure delivery.
-

7. Proposals and Details

To report on work completed so far to work with health colleagues in developing planning policy to ensure best outcomes for health and future determination of planning applications.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

NPPF requires planning to promote healthy communities by the provision of safe and accessible developments and work with public health leads to take account of health status and needs of the population (sports, recreation, places of worship etc)

It further stipulates that new developments include shared space and community facilities, opportunities for sport and recreation.

Further development of this national policy can be found within the Development Plan for each authority and in Rotherham the overarching policies can be found in the Local Plan Core Strategy (publication version currently out to consultation for soundness).

In relation to health, and building on the statements within the NPPF, the Core Strategy states that: Green space, sport and recreation are essential elements of sustainable communities that contribute towards health, quality of life, sense of place and overall well-being. Looking at our green assets in a more joined up way through initiatives such as Green Infrastructure can maximise social and environmental benefits, including the promotion of health and social wellbeing.

The Local Plan supports the provision of local health facilities but also influences health directly by supporting strategies for improvements to air quality and promoting a healthier lifestyle through walking / cycling and the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities.

The development of these themes within the Local Plan and its subsequent Health Impact assessment have been carried out in conjunction with colleagues in Health Improvement, Public Health.

In addition Planners are required to assess the amount and type of Infrastructure required to support areas of growth identified within the Core Strategy and Health colleagues have been fully involved in drawing up the Boroughs Infrastructure Delivery Plan where they highlighted:

- Potential requirements of primary health care, hospitals, community services and doctors surgeries to accommodate future growth.
- Major changes expected in delivery of health services following Health & Social Care Act = great uncertainty over infrastructure provision.
- Considerable recent investment (e.g. Rotherham Community Health Centre, Maltby & Aston Customer Service Centre) but no scope for further joint service provision in short term.

- Estimated cost of new infrastructure to meet Local Plan growth is £2.7m out of total cost of £9.5m for this provision. Includes new surgery at Bassingthorpe Farm; replacement for Dalton and Dinnington Surgeries (10% due to growth). Waverley proposed growth already consented.
- As PCTs are abolished, commissioning will become the role of GPs
- Given planned change and uncertainty, need to plan with caution and keep under review.

Health will also be fully involved in the next stages of developing a charging schedule for developers which will replace the majority of section 106 obligations.

Further interaction health / planning

Following on from the Core Strategy will be the more detailed sites and policies document later this year – specifying sites for future development and policies that all planning applications will be considered against.

In order to incorporate the Public Health Agenda stronger partnership working is expected by Government from April 2013 with spatial planning expected to make significant contributions to improving health and reducing inequality. (“Aims and Objectives of: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England (2010).”) It has therefore been agreed that Health Improvement colleagues will be involved in the development of these specific policies to:

- ensure the best outcomes and to reduce demands on health service
- addressing issues of particular importance such as obesity
- assess areas of growth – sharing of information to assist with decisions relating to provision of facilities and master planning.
- Allow for increase physical activities by ensuring provision of adequate green space and recreational facilities
- reduce air / water pollution

Determination of Planning Applications

Although not a statutory consultee it would be useful to establish some criteria for consultation and a point of contact for planning applications for larger residential developments or development which may have an impact on NHS services such as nursing homes.

In terms of general input to the application process it is possible for harmful effects to human health to be considered as a material planning consideration.

There is also an opportunity to develop Health Impact Assessment Guidance for developers as this has not been used widely in Rotherham. A Health Impact Assessment is not a statutory requirement when considering a planning application although they can be very useful when considering major applications and can be built into the requirements in a planning performance agreement. (They are required as part of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permits issued by the Environment Agency but not within the Planning Regime).

Actions for Planning

- Engage with Joanna Saunders, Head of Health Improvement, Public Health Directorate as already agreed, when developing policies for sites and policies document (Autumn 2012)
- Liaise with and establish contact and criteria for notification / consultation on planning applications to ensure NHS views are taken into consideration on appropriate applications
- Liaise when drawing up charging schedule for infrastructure delivery.

8. Finance

Report for information no financial direct implications in relation to the content of this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Government agenda is requiring significant contributions to improving health and reducing inequality from planning. Joint working will ensure that key points are picked up through policy work and delivered on through the planning process.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Contribution to Development of Rotherham's Local Plan

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Bronwen Knight
Planning Manager

Bronwen.knight@rotherham.gov.uk

Tel : 01709 823866



Eye health and sight loss: local planning for the future

- People living with sight loss face a number of barriers which impact upon independent living and emotional wellbeing. This exclusion can include access to information, health services and services provided at a local authority level.
- The number of people living with sight loss is to double to four million by 2050. Over 50 per cent of sight loss can be avoided. Sight loss costs the UK economy more than £6 billion per year and is set to increase to £7.9 billion by 2013.
- Reducing unnecessary sight loss will not only help improve the quality of life of local residents, it makes financial sense by reducing the demand on local services and council budgets.
- There are strong links between sight loss and smoking, obesity, depression, social inequality and falls – these are key priorities for public health.
- There is strong and growing evidence of capacity issues in eye hospitals leading to delays in treatment of AMD, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts. These need to be addressed as a matter of urgency as delays can lead to irreversible sight loss.

Questions and actions for local authorities and health and wellbeing boards

- Are you aware of how many people in your area have a visual impairment and what services and support is available to blind and partially sighted people?
- Does your local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognise eye health as a public health need and plan for the increase in the number of people with sight loss in the future?
- Are the Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group aware of the Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator for eye health and sight loss?
- Registering sight loss with the local council can make it easier to get practical support from the social services department and can be a 'passport' to getting concessions and benefits. Are these registers regularly updated and how are people told about registration?
- There is a duty to provide information in a person's preferred format. Do your local authority and local health organisations provide information in braille, audio, large print and other formats?



More information

For contact details of your local RNIB Regional Campaigns Officer who will be able to provide further support and information:

visit [rnib.org.uk/campaigns](https://www.rnib.org.uk/campaigns)

email campaigns@rnib.org.uk

call **020 7391 2123**

©RNIB March 2012

Registered charity number 226227

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

1.	Meeting:	Health and Well Being Board
2.	Date:	11th July, 2012
3.	Title:	Consultation on the development of Healthwatch
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary:

Consultation with stakeholders is planned in line with the consultation plan agreed by the Health and Well Being Board on the 6th June 2012 meeting. This consultation will inform the development of Healthwatch Rotherham. Public consultation will run from the 12th July to the 18th September, 2012.

It is proposed that the attached two surveys are sent out as follows:-

1. To members of the public and health and social care service users initially via an online survey on the Council website with a link from the Health and Well Being Board webpage. The survey will also be sent to a representative sample of health and social care service users.
2. To voluntary and community sector networks and community interest groups via email.

The surveys include a draft 'vision' for Healthwatch Rotherham and it is proposed that this vision is consulted on before final agreement to ensure it is representative of Rotherham people's aspirations for their local Healthwatch.

6. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:-

- 6.1 Approve the vision for Healthwatch Rotherham for further consultation.
- 6.2 Approve the consultation plan and consultation surveys attached.
- 6.3 Agree that a report on the findings of the consultation is brought back to a future meeting.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The Vision for Healthwatch Rotherham

In a recent report published by the LGA on the progress of the Local Authority pathfinders, one of the key findings to success was the development and approval of a vision for their local healthwatch. (LGA report Building Successful Healthwatch organisations).

It is therefore proposed that the draft vision is:-

Healthwatch Rotherham will work with local people to ensure that they receive the best quality health and social care services by:

- *Providing information, advice and support that will enable Rotherham people to make choices and access health and social care services.*
- *Providing leadership and support to strengthen the collective voice of local people.*
- *Ensuring that service user's views and experiences influence, shape and improve health and social care services and reduce health inequalities.*
- *Working collaboratively with local health and well being board, community networks; building on existing information, advice and local knowledge.*

The proposed vision is based on the requirements for Healthwatch but also intentionally aspirational to inspire people to be part of improving health and social care services.

7.2 Consultation with Members of the Public and Service Users; Community Networks and the voluntary and community sector

It is proposed that the attached two surveys are sent out as follows:-

1. To members of the public and health and social care service users initially via an online survey on the Council website with a link from the Health and Well Being Board webpage. The survey will also be sent to a representative sample of health and social care service users. This survey will seek views about the three main functions of Healthwatch: information and advice, signposting, and NHS complaints advocacy. The questions also relate to the current service provision so that a baseline position can be determined for future performance monitoring and also inform the drafting of the service specification.
2. To voluntary and community sector networks and community interest groups via email. This will determine the position in relation to the current spread of organisations that are currently providing information, advice and signposting information about health and social care services but also those

organisations that are actively seeking the views of their service users to influence service developments. This will provide, not only a baseline position, but also determine the priority information areas to be included in the service specification. It is also anticipated that those organisations completing this survey will wish to take an active involvement in the implementation of Healthwatch and its vision and values.

Some of the questions in the surveys are the same as those used by other local authorities which will enable some element of benchmarking to be achieved.

Healthwatch Rotherham should strengthen the collective voice of local people across both health and social care services and will need to be truly representative of local communities. To achieve this Rotherham Healthwatch will therefore need to work in collaboration with existing local community networks and organisations. This will avoid the need for Rotherham Healthwatch to start from scratch saving time and resources. It will also recognise and build on the experiences of such groups to ensure it reaches all of Rotherham's diverse communities.

The intention is that the consultation will raise awareness about the new Healthwatch services that will be available from April 2013. Both surveys comply with the 12 week Council consultation code and the requirement to develop a Consultation Plan (attached at appendix 3).

8. Finance

The costs of carrying out the consultation exercise will be met from existing resources.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The consultation raises the expectations of members of the public about what they want from Healthwatch which may not be possible to meet through the service specification or the DH guidance.

That survey response rates are low. This risk could be reduced by issuing a press release and using Rotherham Link's database to send the survey to their members. Making reference to the survey through existing consultation exercises, direct mailing and telephone calls to key partners and stakeholders will also help.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The performance of and work programme of Healthwatch Rotherham will be clearly linked to the priorities of the Health and Well Being Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix 1 – Survey to Members of the Public and Service Users

Appendix 2 – Survey to networks, and the voluntary and community sector.

Appendix 3 – Consultation Plan

Contact Name : Chrissy Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager
e-mail: chrissy.wright@rotherham.gov.uk

Healthwatch Rotherham

A consultation survey for the development of Healthwatch Rotherham

Your new local Healthwatch will provide information, advice and support to help you find out about and how to access health and social care services, as well as gather your views and experiences to improve services for people in Rotherham.

To determine how your local Healthwatch will work, we are seeking the views of people who have experience of using health and social care services in Rotherham.

We have also developed a vision for Healthwatch Rotherham and we would welcome your views on this.

If you could complete this survey your comments will be used to inform the development of Healthwatch Rotherham which will be in place from April 2013.

This survey is also available on line at www.rotherham.gov.uk

Our Vision for HealthWatch Rotherham

HealthWatch Rotherham will work with local people to ensure that they receive the best quality health and social care services by:

- *Providing information, advice and support that will enable Rotherham people to make choices and access health and social care services.*
- *Providing leadership and support to strengthen the collective voice of local people.*
- *Ensuring that service user's views and experiences influence, shape and improve health and social care services and reduce health inequalities.*
- *Working collaboratively with local community networks, building on existing information, advice and local knowledge.*

1. Do you feel the vision above represents what you feel Healthwatch Rotherham should aim to achieve?

Yes

No

If no, what do you think the vision should include?

Advice, Information and Signposting – helping you to make informed choices.

2. Where do you currently get information and advice from about health and social care? (tick all that apply)

GP Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHS Direct	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHS Choices website	<input type="checkbox"/>
PALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Information Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family or Friend	

If other, please state: _____

3. How would you like to receive information and/or advice about health and social care in the future? (tick all that apply)

GP Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthwatch Rotherham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHS Direct	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	NHS Choices website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Information Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family or Friend	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please state: _____ :

4. What is most important to you when receiving information about health and social care? (tick all that apply)

Helpful Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Time spent explaining information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fact to face contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	From an organisation recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy to read	<input type="checkbox"/>	From an organisation you can trust	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please state: _____ :

Public and Patient Engagement – ensuring your views improve services.

5. How are you currently consulted about your views and experiences of services? (tick all that apply)

Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Event / Drop In Session	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Interest Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please state which one:	
Paper Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary and Community Sector Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please state which one:	
		I am not currently consulted	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please state: _____

6. How would you prefer to be consulted about your views and experiences of health and social care services in the future? (tick all that apply)

Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthwatch Rotherham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Event / Drop In Session	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Interest Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paper Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please state which one:	
Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary and Community Sector Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Please state which one:	

If other, please state: _____

NHS Complaints Advocacy – there to help you make a complaint if you need to

7. If you needed to make a complaint, which individual or organisation do you think would best support you to do this?

Independent regional advocacy organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent local advocacy organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local community group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends or Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, please state _____

Healthwatch Rotherham

8. What would you like your local Healthwatch to do?

Please tell us briefly what you think.

9. Please tell us your postcode:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Equal Opportunities

The information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used to monitor take up of services and ensure that no particular individual or group of people are discriminated against in the provision of service. This monitoring information could be passed on to other services of the Council, who need to use it for the same purpose.

1. What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
-------------------------------	---------------------------------

2. Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

3. What is your age? **4. Are you disabled or do you have a long term limiting illness or condition?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

Please give further details below if you wish:

- Physical or mobility impairment (such as difficulty using your arms or mobility issues which means using a wheelchair or crutches):
- Sensory impairment (such as being blind or deaf or visual / hearing impairment)
- Mental health condition (such as depression or schizophrenia):
- Learning disability/difficulty (such as Down's syndrome or dyslexia) or cognitive impairment (such as autistic spectrum disorder):
- Long-standing illness or health condition (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy):
- Other (Please Specify):
-

5. Are you a Carer?

A Carer is someone who looks after a partner, relative or friend who is an older person, has a disability or long term illness. The Carer may, or may not live in the same household.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

6. What is your sexual orientation / sexuality?

<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian / Gay
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

7. How do you describe your ethnic origin?

<p>White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other white background - please specify: _____</p> <p>Asian or Asian British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Indian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kashmiri</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian background - please specify: _____</p> <p>Multiple Heritage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian and White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black African and White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean and White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other multiple Heritage - please specify: _____</p>	<p>Black or Black British</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> African</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other black background – please specify _____</p> <p>Gypsy or Traveller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Roma</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Gypsy or Traveller background - please specify: _____</p> <p>Chinese, Yemeni, Arab</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yemeni</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Arab</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic Group - please specify: _____</p>
--	--

8. What is your religion or belief (if any)?

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Islam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sikhism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Christianity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Humanism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Judaism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No religion or belief</p>
--	---

Thank you for completing this form. The information you have provided will be used to help us to improve our services to you and other people in Rotherham.

Healthwatch Rotherham

A survey to local community forums, networks and partnerships, and voluntary and community sector organisations.

Healthwatch Rotherham will be the new consumer champion for both publically funded health and social care services. Healthwatch Rotherham will strengthen the collective voice of local people and gather their views and experiences to inform the development of health and social care services.

The key roles, responsibilities and functions of local Healthwatch organisations are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. These include providing information, advice and a signposting service to enable members of the public to access health and social care services.

Whilst the service requirements will be the responsibility of the organisation that is awarded the contract for Healthwatch Rotherham, we recognise that Healthwatch Rotherham will be more effective if it utilised the existing experiences of local networks, interest groups, and voluntary and community sector organisations in reaching and seeking the views of service users from Rotherham's diverse communities.

We have also developed a vision for Healthwatch and we would welcome your views on this.

Our Vision for HealthWatch Rotherham

Healthwatch Rotherham will work with local people to ensure that they receive the best quality health and social care services by:

- Providing information, advice and support that will enable Rotherham people to make choices and access health and social care services.
- Providing leadership and support to strengthen the collective voice of local people.
- Ensuring that service user's views and experiences influence, shape and improve health and social care services and reduce health inequalities.
- Working collaboratively with local community networks, building on existing information, advice and local knowledge.

We are seeking your views of on how Healthwatch will work in Rotherham and our draft vision, and therefore we are asking you to complete this short survey and return it by 17th August, 2012 to commissioning@rotherham.gov.uk. Or to Clare Burton, Operational Commissioner, Resources Directorate, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

1. Do you feel the vision above represents what you feel Rotherham Healthwatch should aim to achieve?

Yes No

If no, what do you think the vision should include?

2. Does your organisation provide information and advice to members of the public on accessing health and social care services?

Yes No

3. Does your organisation provide members of the public with a choice by signposting them to other services that are available?

Yes No

4. Does your organisation gather the views of service users about their need for, and experiences of local health and social care services?

Yes No

5. Does your organisation share the views of service users with those involved in commissioning, provision and scrutiny of care services?

Yes No

6. What would your organisation expect to see from Healthwatch?

7. **How could your organisation benefit from the functions to be delivered by Healthwatch?**

8. **Would your organisation be interested in being involved in the development of Healthwatch?**

Yes

No

Please explain the reason for your response

9. **Would your organisation be interested in being more actively involved in Healthwatch, eg. Undertaking consultation with your service users on behalf of Healthwatch?**

Yes

No

Please explain the reason for your response

If you are interested in being involved or would like some feedback about the results of this survey then please provide your contact details.

Name:

Organisation:

Contact Address or telephone number:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Commissioning, Policy and Performance

Consultation Plan on the development of Healthwatch Rotherham

Rotherham people, health and social care service users and the Voluntary and Community Sector will be invited to have their say on the development of Healthwatch Rotherham.

Healthwatch Rotherham will work with local people to ensure that they receive the best quality health and social care services by:

- Providing information, advice and support that will enable Rotherham people to make choices and access health and social care services.
- Providing leadership and support to strengthen the collective voice of local people.
- Ensuring that service user's views and experiences influence, shape and improve health and social care services and reduce health inequalities.
- Working collaboratively with local community networks, building on existing information, advice and local knowledge.

The new local healthwatch will provide information, advice and support to help people in Rotherham find out about and how to access health and social care services as well as gather their views and experiences to improve these services.

To determine how the local healthwatch will work, we are seeking the views of people and organisations that have experience of using health and social care services in Rotherham and also seeking their views on the proposed vision for the Healthwatch Rotherham. This will be achieved by doing 2 separate surveys for the service users and local organisations.

Our target audience for consultation therefore is a wide one, made up of all those who reside in Rotherham and those organisations who work with health and social care services.

Indicative timetable for consultation	
<p>Consultation period: Maximum 12 weeks</p> <p>Beginning 27th June 2012 and completed on 18th September 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th June-4th July- finalise surveys for service users and VCS organisations • The consultation plan, surveys and the vision will be presented to the HWBB (Health & Well Being Board) on 11th July for approval • 12th July- both surveys will go online and the service user survey will be posted out to health and social care service users using P & Q Team database and the organisations survey will be emailed to the VCS organisations

Indicative timetable for consultation	
	<p>via Community Engagement Team using Connect to Support contact list. LINK Rotherham will be asked to contact their members on their database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31st August- Survey completion and return date. • 1st September-17th September- analysis of findings • 18th September- Feedback report goes on Council's Consultation Website for the public

Consultation material and cascading information

Website: Surveys to go on the council website's consultation page with a link to the HWBB webpage under the link for Healthwatch

Mail out: Service User surveys posted out to health and social care service users.

Email: Organisation survey will be emailed to the VCS organisations via Community Engagement Team using Connect to Support contact list

LINK Rotherham will be asked to contact their members on their database and promote the surveys.

Contact Name

Clare Burton
Operational Commissioner
Commissioning, Policy and Performance

Resources Directorate
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Tel: 01709 254835
Email: clare.burton@rotherham.gov.uk