

## Appendix 1.

### Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review - **Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Recommendations – Health and Wellbeing**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
1	<b>Vaping:</b> That consideration was given to several young people from the Youth Cabinet to support a mystery shop in vape shops to identify sources, where possible.	Accepted	Members of RYC are committed to undertaking a mystery shop, which will be completed within 6 months.	Joanne Hacking	August 2025
2	That the Council identified and considered any potential opportunities to reduce vaping adverts on shopfronts, including areas where the Council does not have direct control, where possible.	Accepted	The Council is not able to enforce restrictions on advertising space in the borough that is not under control of the Council.  We are not aware of any space that is owned by the Council that currently doesn't meet this commitment.  The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is currently looking at its advertising policy which will cover South Yorkshire's public transport system.		
3	That the Council sought to encourage all secondary schools to work together, to ensure a synchronised response to the vaping.	Accepted	This work is already ongoing as captured in the Tobacco Control Action Plan overseen by the Tobacco Control Steering Group. There is a working group including Council officers from Public Health, Trading Standards and 0-19 service working with	Gilly Brenner	Sept 2025

			schools to determine how best to support them. Current resources will be reviewed and additional resources developed as required during this academic year.		
4	<p><b>Mental Health:</b> That the Council sought to encourage all schools in the borough to ensure that young people feel listened to within the schools, and that schools were committed to support.</p>	Accepted	<p>This work is ongoing. The council have contributed to the development of a Social Emotional and Mental Health Continuum which clearly identified our shared expectations for schools to listen to and support children and young people. The Council and partners are supporting schools to deliver the continuum through a competency framework, SEMH graduated response, SEMH Outreach support and With Me in Mind (Rotherham's Mental Health Support Teams in 70% of schools including all secondary schools). A multi-agency meeting is planned in March to embed the support. This work is ongoing, to encourage schools and measure impact the Council run a School Student Survey every year for all Students in Year 7 (ages 11 to 12) and Year 10 (ages 14 to 15) at secondary schools, pupil referral units, and those who are elective home educated. In 2024, all 16 secondary schools in Rotherham participated with a 62.7% participation rate. A section of the survey is focused on mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Helen Sweaton Niall Devlin Lorna Quinn</p>	<p>March 2025  October 2025</p>

			Schools receive an individual school report from the survey to assist them in gauging how well they are meeting their own health and wellbeing objectives and to help shape their PSHE curriculum. This is considered outstanding practice and provides evidence in relation to Ofsted grade descriptors.		
5	That consideration was given to how the provision of a dedicated youth space for young people could be achieved, for example, a development of a space similar to the Barnsley Youth Zone.	Rejected	<p>The Barnsley Youth Zone was developed at a cost of £9.2 million and funded by a combination of private and public sector contributions including grants.</p> <p>The Council is committed to having an inclusive universal offer for all young people that includes places to go and things to do in all wards across Rotherham. Through the Universal Youth Work fund and Rotherham Healthy Holidays Programme (HAF), Early Help provide funding to voluntary and community sector organisations to expand the existing youth offer and create high quality, universal youth provision for young people across the Borough, ensuring young people have somewhere safe to go, to socialise and learn new skills, with a trusted adult who is skilled and trained to support them.</p> <p>Members of the Children and Young People's Partnership</p>	<p>Kelly White</p> <p>Helen Sweaton</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2026</p>

			Board have suggested they would like to support the development of a strategy creating and communicating all 'youth zones' for young people including dedicated digital spaces in libraries, youth clubs and 'safe spots' across the Borough.		
6	That the Council worked with its partners to enhance early detection and diagnoses of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the potential need for an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to assist with the reduction of potential waiting times for the young person to access the EHCP provisions.	Accepted	<p>The statutory timeframe for an EHC Plan states it must be finalised within 20 weeks of the request for an EHC needs assessment being made. The final EHCP will include the provision (including the school) to meet the identified needs. The Council has worked to reduce the number of children waiting longer than 20 weeks.</p> <p>The Council and it's partners have developed a graduated response to support schools to identify and meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities. Implementation of the graduated response is ongoing. Impact will be measured by the numbers of children receiving SEN Support and those with an EHCP educated in mainstream provision.</p>	Niall Devlin	July 2025
7	<b>Physical Activity:</b> That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough that they would consider increasing extracurricular clubs, including the range of sports.	Accepted	Schools decide how they deliver extra-curricular clubs and the range of sports offered.	Niall Devlin	July 2025

			<p>The National curriculum in England: PE programmes of study are the statutory programmes of study and attainment targets for physical education at key stages 1 to 4. They are issued by law; schools must follow them unless there's a good reason not to.</p> <p>The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, on behalf of the Council will seek assurance from all local-authority-maintained schools that they are offering a range of sports and extra-curricular clubs in preparation for the new academic year.</p>		
8	That the Council aimed to ensure that all parks within the borough were kept in good condition and safe.	Accepted	<p>This work is ongoing. Green Flag award achieved on 16 July 2024 for Clifton Park; Greasbrough Park; Rother Valley Country Park; and Thrybergh Country Park. Natural England Accreditation granted in June 2024 for three country parks: Rother Valley, Thrybergh and Ulley.</p> <p>Additional revenue investment to improve the environment has benefitted grounds maintenance, street cleansing, wildflower seeding and tree planting</p>	Polly Hamilton	July 2025
9	That consideration be given to providing exercise equipment to all parks in the borough, where possible and that activity-based walks were considered at popular locations, in conjunction with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.	Accepted	The current Council priorities include a commitment to a playground improvement programme over the next three	Chris Siddall	December 2025

		<p>years, which will include consideration of exercise equipment provision in parks.</p> <p>A Sport England grant (due at Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> March) will seek to provide a dedicated officer with responsibility for supporting children and young people's increased access to physical activity, focused on developing a consensus of need and opportunity across the borough and linked to the Children's Capital of Culture. Over the next 12 months they will draw together learning from engagement and work with partners to expand opportunities and highlight activities that exist. Any additional exercise infrastructure may require external grant funding should equipment in green spaces prove to be a priority from the consultation. It should be noted that Sport England do not fund play equipment.</p> <p>Make Your Mark results from 2024 indicated that Health and Wellbeing are a concern for young people. RYC is committed to working with Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director – Regeneration and Environment and his team. This will include consultation and some observed evidence of work taking place. RYC would like to</p>		October 2025
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			be involved in consulting on appropriate exercise equipment for parks, this again will be in conjunction with Regeneration and Environment.		
10	<p><b>Healthy Eating:</b> That the Council sought assurances from schools within the borough, that they ensured that healthy food options were available to all young people.</p>	Accepted	<p>Schools decide who they want to provide their school meals. The Council provides school meals to many of our schools through Riverside Catering. If schools choose to use the Council's Riverside Catering for their school meals, the Council is able to ensure they have access to a healthy balanced meal. Meals are prepared according to the Government's nutritional guidelines using fresh locally sourced produce. Riverside Catering has maintained their Soil Association Food for Life Served Here Bronze award accreditation. The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, on behalf of the Council will seek assurance from all local-authority-maintained schools that they are offering healthy food options to all young people.</p>	Niall Devlin	July 2025
11	That schools in the borough give consideration to the young inspectors completing an inspection of school lunches and lunches provided as part of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, where possible.	Accepted	The Young Inspectors have added inspection of school lunches and lunches provided as part of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to their work programme. Inspections will take place during the next year with recommendations provided to those inspected.	Joanne Hacking/ Helen Sweaton	March 2026

12	That the Council and its partners give consideration to producing a teenage-specific campaign to support healthy eating.	Accepted	The Rotherham Food Network and Public Health officers will work with the Youth Cabinet to start to develop their own campaign over this academic year, using the materials from Bite Back national campaign, and support schools to use these resources.	Gilly Brenner	September 2025
13	That a site visit to the allotments be arranged for members of the Youth Cabinet	Accepted	Youth Cabinet will work with Jamie Calvert at the "Rotherham Allotments Alliance" to arrange a visit to a suitable site.	Joanne Hacking/ Cllr Clarke	September 2025