

Bolsover District Council

Standards Committee

10th March 2015

Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Report of the Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To bring to the attention of the Committee the recent inspection report into Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the recent report of Professor Alexis Jay OBE into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham which described how vulnerable children had repeatedly been failed by the Council.
- 1.2 Following that report, the Secretary of State for Communities in Local Government ordered a statutory best value inspection of Rotherham Council and appointed Louise Casey to carry it out. A copy of Ms Casey's report is attached.
- 1.3 Whilst the report presents a disturbing picture of a Council in denial about its failures to prevent children from harm, of particular concern for this Standards Committee will be the failures highlighted in relation to high standards of conduct and governance arrangements.
- 1.4 In particular the report highlights:
 - A pervading culture of bullying, sexism and misplaced political correctness.
 - A failure by members to hold officers to account through scrutiny and to represent the interests of local people.
 - Serious weaknesses in the Council's taxi licensing procedures.
- 1.4 The Casey report concluded that the Council was failing in its statutory duty to provide best value. It has culminated in the resignation of Rotherham's Cabinet, a move to all out elections in 2016 and the probable appointment of Government commissioners to exercise the Council's executive and licensing functions as well as senior officer level appointments.
- 1.5 Whilst Bolsover shows no signs of the sorts of issues identified in Rotherham, the report highlight lessons from which that all councils can learn. It is provided for members' information.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 To advise the Committee on the recent inspection report into Rotherham Borough Council.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 None.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

5 Implications

None.

6 Recommendations

6.1 To note the report.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Inspection Report of Rotherham MBC
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	
Report Author	Contact Number
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