**Agenda Item** | **Action**
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1. **Welcome and Apologies**  
Brian Chapple welcomed colleagues to the meeting.  
Apologies were received from Peter Blanksby (Annette Cassam deputising) Graham Eades (Jim Bell deputising) and Ian Hanks (Sue Skalycz deputising). Apologies were also received from Cllr Jahangir Akhtar, Sabi Akram, Eileen Brooks, Jamie Courtney, Helen MacMullen, Chris MacCormac, Sue Ransom, John Wainwright, Elaine Woodhams and David Young (all of whom had no deputy in attendance).
1a. **Declarations of Interest**  
No declarations of interest were received.
2. **Action Points from Previous Meeting**  
The action points from the previous meeting held on the 20th May 2010 were received and approved as a true record.
### 2a. Matters Arising

**Partnership Refresh**
Covered under Partnership Report.

**Rotherham News**
Sue Skalycz confirmed that JobCentre Plus would now not be able to commit to any advertising within Rotherham News, as they no longer have a budget for this.

**LAA Review Sign Off**
Covered under Partnership Report.

**LAA Reward Grant (Community Stadium)**
On today’s agenda.

**Apprenticeships in Rotherham**
Andy Buck updated the Board on the current position of NHS Rotherham with regards to apprenticeships. Andy asked if data could be provided on the types of roles that are being sought and the packages of support that are available for apprentices. Rob Hannon commented that information on apprenticeships is not reaching businesses, and the limited information which is currently available is confusing and unclear.

Martin Kimber responded that the feedback was constructive and he would task the RMBC Inward Development Team with pulling together a ‘practical package of information’ on apprenticeships. Sue Skalycz offered the services of the JobCentre Plus Employer Engagement Team to market apprenticeships.

**Comprehensive Area Assessment**
Carole Haywood informed the Board that although CAA had now been abolished, it contained issues that remain important for Rotherham. Carole informed the Board that information will continue to be fed into the Board regarding these issues.

**Town Centre Update**
On today’s agenda.
Nick Cragg informed the Board that he had recently met with representatives from the Rotherham Advertiser who had agreed to support town centre projects positively.

**Ambassadors Event**
Nick Cragg informed the Board that the Learning Ambassadors Event held at Magna on the 24th June was an excellent event. The event was run very economically, and Nick added that there was much to be learned from it for future Ambassador events.

### 3. Theme Board Updates

**Proud**
Janet Wheatley introduced the Proud update as Chair of the Proud Theme Board.
Janet informed the Board that another meeting had taken place since the production of the paper, and changes had been made – especially regarding the LAA Reward Grant. Janet added that the recent Proud Board meeting had been poorly attended. The next meeting will be used to re-focus the priorities, given that many of Proud’s indicators no longer exist.
Sue Skalycz informed Janet Wheatley that she had forwarded VAR’s details to DWP Ministers who are looking to visit organisations that use volunteering as a pathway into work.

**Achieving**
Nick Cragg introduced the Achieving update as Chair of the Achieving Theme Board.
Nick informed the Board that two meetings had taken place since the last Partnership Board meeting, and no attendance problems had been experienced. Nick added that there had been some good news on employment figures, and some indication that government are looking for solutions from the business sector. There was some concern at the meeting regarding LEPs, but this needs to be addressed by Rotherham being strongly represented, as Rotherham’s future is inextricably tied in with Sheffield.

**Alive**
Kath Atkinson introduced the Alive update as Chair of the Alive Theme Board.
Kath also reported no attendance problems at the recent Alive Theme Board. Kath informed the Board that the meeting focussed on key issues, and ensuring how they are worked through with a renewed focus on targets and information sharing.

No reports were received from Learning and Safe. Brian Chapple requested that the Partnership office write to the respective Theme Managers to ask that they ensure that their reports are submitted in future.

Richard Tweed gave a brief verbal update on Safe. Richard informed the Board that a level of reporting had been removed, with the merger of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board into the Safe Theme Board. This will result in six fewer meetings per year. The LAA Reward Grant has been re-profiled into a workable solution, and the important work on anti-social behaviour will continue.
Rob Hannon asked how best to challenge/report anti-social behaviour, as he had recently witnessed some during his monthly Town Centre walkabout.
Roger Stone informed the Board that there will be a Town Centre cabinet member from the 28th July.

**Partnership Report (Paper 1)**
**Partnership Review and Refresh**
Carole Haywood informed the Board that a Local Improvement Advisor (LIA) has been recruited to offer support and advice to the Partnership. Sheila Stokes-White has extensive experience of working with LSP’s on governance and performance management, and will work with the Partnership for 8 days in total between June-September. It is expected that Sheila will attend the September meeting of the Partnership Board.

**Progress on Restructure of Theme Boards**
Work has been ongoing with all Theme Boards looking at their structures with a view to streamlining the decision making process. Safe Theme Board has been refreshed, with a reduction in meetings. Proud are currently looking at the role of the Theme Manager. Tentative discussions have been taking place between Achieving and Learning to ensure that their agenda incorporates both work and skills and mirrors the Transforming Learning agenda. Carole Haywood is picking up this work with the relevant Theme Chairs. Alive is now working much more effectively, with streamlined reporting
Theme Managers are now meeting monthly. Carole informed the Board that she is working with the Rotherham Older Peoples forum to ensure the Partnership reflects the views and needs of our elderly people (currently 40% of the population of the borough). Carol informed the Board that the funding for the Voice and Influence project expires in March 2011.

**Total Place**
Michael Clark and Catherine Dale are now picking up this work, focussing on a small number of families to explore their experiences in detail, and look at how effective intervention measures are. A report will be brought to the September meeting of the Board.

**LAA Reward Grant**
Carole informed the Board that as a result of the 50% reduction to LAA Reward Grant allocations, re-profiled amounts have been agreed by the Chief Executive Officer Group. Carole confirmed that there is no deadline for spending these funds, and it is expected that contracts will be signed off by Brian Chapple, Matt Gladstone and John Lewis by the beginning of August. Some activity has already started at risk.

John Welham informed the Board that government has not yet decided if the reward element of the current LAA will be honoured.

**LSP – Fit for the Future**
Roger Stone commented that even though government are abolishing many of the Partnership's current targets, there is still a need for us to have some measure of how we are doing in Rotherham.

The Board noted progress and emerging issues.

Roger Stone and Martin Kimber left the meeting.

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**LAA 2008-11 Annual Review (Paper 2)**
Tim Littlewood informed the Board that the paper presents further analysis of the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 performance picture, which builds on the LAA Review paper presented in March 2010. The emphasis of the paper is on the likelihood of achieving targets contained in the LAA. Tim delivered a brief presentation and questions followed. Tim informed the Board that there is now a need to look carefully at what we are able to influence, and equally what we are not able to influence. Tim added that it is looking increasingly unlikely that there will be any money attached to the current round of LAA, an most perception surveys will be cancelled. There is a need to put local priorities and local measures first. There is a danger that the potential loss of small public sector grants will result in the loss of larger funds which will not be able to be drawn down. Tim asked the Board for their thoughts on what the best outcome measures would be.

Andy Buck responded that from an NHS Rotherham perspective it is not currently clear what they are to be held account for. Some measures are needed, but we ought to be frugal. We should be clear about what the 10-15 most important things are in Rotherham and base our reporting around them. Andy added that this could be discussed at the CEO Group away-day which is to be held soon. Tim Littlewood commented that lessons could be learned from the private sector regarding performance management, and a more business-like model adopted. Rob Hannon suggested that a pyramid structure (of profit over cost and
margin) should help when choosing the key measure, and could translate to many areas of Partnership working.

Tim was asked why the Partnership's influence was rated as low for so many of the measures. He responded that so many of the targets had been influenced by factors that are completely out of our control. Tim added that data is still not effectively exchanged between organisations. Nick Cragg commented that we have very little influence over the economic/worklessness agenda – in addition incapacity benefits will be cut within two years, which will have a huge effect locally. Nick asked why don’t we concentrate on the local picture and measure ourselves against like for like areas. Nick added that we should support our local businesses, as business creates wealth.

Tim Littlewood responded that the way in which we commission is crucial to keeping the local economy going.

Carole Haywood informed the Board that Theme Boards have looked at their indicators in this final year to see which ones could change. Carole added that there is not a need to spend copious amounts of time refreshing the indicators – the refreshed Community Strategy will need to highlight only the absolute essential targets.

The Board agreed the Chairs’ suggestion that time be allocated at the next Board meeting to look into priorities for the next year.

The Board noted the contents of the report and the targets where performance can be improved through the allocation of additional resources and partnership working.

The Board agreed that in accordance with the LSP PMF Theme Managers and the Partnership Manager ensure that timely and accurate performance data is available, and that problems of performance are flagged and that appropriate delivery plans and performance clinics are generated.

The Board agreed that the frequency of LAA performance reporting should be changed from six monthly to quarterly, tailoring the reports to ensure that additional information is provided as requested.

6. **Town Centre Update (Paper 3)**
The report updates the Board on progress in making changes to the Town Centre management arrangements.

Karl Battersby informed the Board that many things have moved on in spite of the difficulties arising from the reduction in LAA Reward Grant funding. Common branded uniforms have been designed and ordered, as have new mechanical sweepers. These will be launched by Cllr Richard Russell, who is the new Cabinet member for the Town Centre. Sue Anderson (UK Coal) is now Chair of the recently merged Marketing and Events Group, and an arts and culture events programme has been devised. Nick Cragg informed the Board that he had been exploring the potential costs and media for the Town Centre Gallery Project, and was close to deciding on the right delivery mechanism. Sites now need to be identified, and Nick hopes to see the project commencing in the next couple of months. Nick confirmed that there would hopefully be some funds left over for some community arts based activity. Nick added that he had received interest from private sector businesses who would be willing to contribute to the project.

The recently introduced Shop Local campaign has seen over 1300 shoppers and 66 businesses sign up so far. Nick Cragg informed Karl that Neil Baxter of Bramhalls would be able to insert the cards into wage slips.

The formed Connexions building in High Street is now in use as the
operational base for RMBC’s Parking Services Team and as a drop-in centre for SYP/PCSO’s/Wardens and Streetpride Supervisors. A new Streetscene Manager is now in post. A package of funding has been put together for a scheme to provide a quality public open space outside the Minster. The free parking initiatives have been reviewed in light of the withdrawal of funding. Annette Casson asked why the car parking scheme costs so much money. Karl responded that Rotherham is one of the cheapest places to park in the region, however the scheme compensates RMBC for the loss of revenue (currently £70K for Free After 3 and £300K for Free Saturdays). Brian James asked if there is any evidence to state that free parking has generated additional income for business. Karl responded that some assessment had been made, but there is a difference of opinion among retailers. Retailers are not prepared to fund the scheme in the current environment. It is expected that the removal of the scheme will cause some controversy. The Shopmobility pilot scheme has commenced in the Town Centre, funded through the Beacon Scheme, and so far has received excellent feedback. Dance Central 2010 will take place in All Saints Square on Saturday 24th July. Karl’s team are also looking into adopting a scheme which is similar to the Safe In Doncaster initiative. Retailers act as a safe place for vulnerable people – this pilot will commence October/November in the Town Centre. Paul Pascoe asked if we could re-look at the removal of free parking, with the Town Centre’s competition being so close. Karl responded that it would be worth looking at this to see if it is a possibility. Nick Cragg commented that he would prefer to have an environment that people want to visit, rather than have no offer at all. Brian Chapple concluded that a lot of progress has been made on the Town Centre since the Partnership made it a priority last year. Rob Hannon commented that he appreciated all of the work that RMBC have put into the Town Centre.

The Board noted the progress against the Town Centre Action Plan to date.

The Board agreed to receive a further Town Centre Update report at the September meeting.

7. Community Stadium Update (Paper 4)
The report updates the Board on progress with the Community Stadium since the last report which was presented at the May meeting. Karl Battersby informed the Board that the overage clause (which had caused some concern at the previous meeting) had now been worked through, and Rotherham United had purchased the parcel of land. RMBC are now working with RUFC to agree the broad terms of the lease, and RUFC are taking on responsibility for the site. Karl added that progress is very positive, and an outline planning application is to be submitted within the next two weeks. Work is ongoing to look at the business plan for the stadium’s multi-use. The club has negotiated with a local colliery for materials to fill and level the site. Representatives from the club are to meet with the Chief Executive Officer Group to look at their plans in more detail.

The Board noted the report and the progress made to date.
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<th>Any Other Business</th>
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<td><strong>GOYH General Update</strong></td>
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<td>John Welham updated the Board on recent government developments.</td>
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<td>Announcements have been made regarding Building Schools for the Future and NHS Reforms. A letter was issued by Vince Cable asking for LEP’s proposals to be in by the 6th September. LEP’s will have access to a Regional Growth Fund of £1bn over 2 years from next year, and will be chaired by local business leaders. Government have not yet announced what will replace the Local Area Agreement, however there are indications that local areas will be responsible for locally determined targets. An announcement will be made shortly on this. Place Based Budgeting will replace Total Place. The Comprehensive Spending Review will be announced on the 20th October. A review of the role of Government Offices is underway, the results should be known by the end of the month. John will keep the LSP informed.</td>
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<td><strong>Yorkshire Forward Update</strong></td>
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<td>Paul Pascoe updated the Board on recent developments at Yorkshire Forward. All current funding is committed, however YF are awaiting the Comprehensive Spending Review to see if any additional funding will be made available. The situation is changing on a daily basis, but there is still a lot of business to be done between now and 2012.</td>
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<td><strong>Sue Ransom</strong></td>
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<td>Brian Chapple recorded his thanks to Sue Ransom for her contribution to the CEO Group, Board and Rotherham. Brian agreed to write to Sue to thank her for all her work and wish her well in her retirement.</td>
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Next Meeting: Thursday 16th September 2010, 4.00-6.30pm – Brinsworth Training Centre.