

## CABINET

20 June 2017

### 2016 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

#### Report of the Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Creating a brighter future for all	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/050517/02	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning	
Contact Officer(s):	Gill Curtis Head of Learning and Skills	Telephone: 01572 758460 email: <a href="mailto:gcurtis@rutland.gov.uk">gcurtis@rutland.gov.uk</a>
Ward Councillors	N/A	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the priorities for childcare sufficiency in Rutland as identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan (Appendix A).
2. Notes the progress made in addressing the priorities, the actions taken to date and actions still to be completed

#### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan addresses the priorities for Rutland identified through the 2016 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. This report identifies the progress made in addressing those priorities and the activities to be completed within the timespan of the plan
- 1.2 Cabinet will be further updated on childcare sufficiency through the publication of the 2017 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report in September 2017

#### 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 All Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to complete an annual report which assesses the sufficiency of childcare in the local authority area and identifies gaps in provision. The assessment must also consider whether sufficient childcare is available to meet the needs of disabled children.

This assessment must be published on the County Council website.

- 2.2 The findings of this Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment are then used to inform a strategic action plan indicating the actions to be taken by the Local Authority and its partners to address any development work required.
- 2.3 This action plan outlines the priorities that need to be implemented to ensure that the sufficiency and quality of childcare places is closely monitored and that the provision of new childcare places is extended should the need be identified.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 No consultation is required

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There are no alternative options

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications. At this stage it is envisaged that the action plan can be delivered within the existing Learning and Skills budget

### **6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Childcare Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to complete an annual report which assesses the sufficiency of childcare with the local authority area and which identifies gaps in provision.

### **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form has been completed. A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required

### **8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no community safety implications resulting from this report.

### **9 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Rutland County Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure 'as far as is reasonably practicable', sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of working parents/carers, or parents/carers undertaking education or training that will lead to work.

### **10 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 The attached Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan (Appendix A) provides Cabinet with an updated report on the progress being made in addressing the priorities identified in the 2016 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- 10.2 There are seven key priorities are identified as Target Areas within the Action Plan

- 10.2.1 To ensure sufficient places are available in high quality Early Years and Childcare Provision for funded 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year old children
- 10.2.2 To ensure the Early Years' Service has accurate data and information regarding the capacity and take up of places
- 10.2.3 To develop data collection processes to identify the individual characteristics of children attending Early Years provision in Rutland and ensuring sufficient capacity to meet needs
- 10.2.4 To implement the 30 hour extended entitlement (30HE) offer to eligible children of working Parents, monitoring the impact of quality and sufficiency
- 10.2.5 To monitor the impact of the New Single Funding Formula on Rutland Providers
- 10.2.6 To ensure our Providers are confident and well trained to support children with additional needs including those who have significant and complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- 10.2.7 To work with Rutland Schools and other providers to ensure families are able to access high quality out of school and holiday provision.
- 10.3 As identified in the Plan, all but two target areas are on track to be completed within the expected timescales
- 10.3.1 Target 4: To implement the 30 hour extended entitlement (30HE) offer to eligible children of working Parents, monitoring the impact of quality and sufficiency.
- The Learning and Skills Team is undertaking significant background work to ensure that providers are being offered guidance and support in preparation for this entitlement which will go live on 1st September 2017. 82% of Rutland's Early Years Providers have indicated that they will offer the 30HE, 4.5% are unsure and 13.5% will not offer 30 HE (18<sup>th</sup> May 2017).
  - Plans for Rutland County Council to deliver the 30HE are fully in place. However, the General Election has delayed the Department of Education's (DfE) national publicity campaign to promote the 30HE to parents. Twelve Rutland parents have registered for the 30HE (18<sup>TH</sup> May 2017) this is 11.5% of the predicted target.
  - The DfE has published a 'model contract' outlining what should be included in Local Authorities' contracts for Early Years providers. Local Authorities are required to have due regard to this model agreement in the exercise of their duty under section 7 of Childcare Act 2006.
  - An IT system (Open Objects) has been purchased and it is anticipated will be operational from July 2017. In the interim, parents are able to check their eligibility for the 30 hours through the Rutland County Council website. <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/schools-education-and-learning/early-education-and-childcare/funding/new-30-hour-extended-entitlement/>

- Open Objects will also support the payment process to Early Years Providers and help monitor take up and vacant capacity of places across the county.

10.3.2 Target 7: To work with Rutland Schools and other providers to ensure families are able to access high quality out of school and holiday provision.

- We recognise that there has been a slight delay in completing this Target Area within originally planned timescales. This was due to some confusion over the responsibility for this piece of work which had originally sat with the Family Information Service. However, it has recently become clear that the transfer of the Family Information Service to the Rutland Information Service did not include this activity.
- The Learning and Skills Team is currently exploring options to complete a full survey of all provision available and, on completion of this activity, plan the quality assurance programme that is required.
- Until we have a full understanding of the number of out of school and holiday providers available to families within Rutland we will not understand the resource capacity that will be required to undertake the routine quality assurance activities.
- The Learning and Skills Team is committed to ensuring this Target Area will be completed within the expected timescales

## **11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 The 2016 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report: Cabinet Paper No. 190/2016

## **12 APPENDICES**

12.1 Appendix A – Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan 2016-17 (updated May 2017)

12.2 Appendix B - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report 2016

**A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.**