



## Background Information to support People First Questionnaire

**Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.**



**Rutland**  
County Council

Do you agree that the council should review the levels of support made to Foster Carers to ensure these are comparable with elsewhere?

<b>Background</b>	<p>We are considering a review of the support we provide to Foster Carers, which could include payments, to make sure it is competitive and commensurate with other fostering agencies and local authorities.</p> <p>Our current thinking is that we may no longer be paying for respite and at the same time paying foster carers.</p> <p>In some instances, Foster Carers could be responsible for supervising contact.</p> <p>We also propose reviewing the charges we make to other councils for providing Foster Carers to make sure we are securing the best deal.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Our annual budget for Foster Care is £870,000.</p> <p>It can cost approximately £24,000 to foster a child in a safe and secure environment for 12 months.</p> <p>We currently pay Foster Carers between £262 and £456 per week depending on a number of factors, most notably the age of the child.</p> <p>Rutland recruited a similar number of foster carers during 2013 as the whole of Leicestershire.</p> <p>Our costs can fluctuate dramatically and unexpectedly. For example, during 2013, the council faced extra costs for foster care of £135,000.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal has support, the council would then undertake a significant piece of work to review the structure of our Foster Carer support, and this could mean that some payments will change so they are more in line with those made by other authorities.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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The council provides short breaks and leisure activities for young people with complex disabilities and their families. In future, we will review whether support (number of hours) should be prioritised for those with the highest needs. Do you agree?

<b>Background</b>	<p>Aiming High provides a service to children and young people with additional needs and their families. A major element of this support is in the form of short breaks and activities.</p> <p>Short breaks provide opportunities for disabled children to spend time away from their primary carers and provide parents/carers with a break.</p> <p>Short breaks can include day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday activities and in Rutland have included sporting activities, art workshops, musical theatre, trampolining, watersports and activity weekends.</p> <p>The proposal is that the council will investigate continually reviewing the service we provide and the thresholds that apply.</p> <p>We anticipate that services in future could be targeted at those members of the community who need them the most.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>The council spends £158,000 each year providing short breaks (and activities) for children and young people with complex disabilities.</p> <p>This also provides family support work, parenting classes and support, peer support opportunities and support for siblings</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal has support, it may mean further work to determine if some people who currently qualify for the Aiming High Short Breaks service may not in the future.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Do you agree with our plan to transfer services delivered at the Children's Centre at Casterton to our other sites? This is part of a wider piece of work that will also introduce charges for sessions that are available for parents with children aged under one.

<b>Background</b>	<p>Children's Centres provide a range of services for families to ensure that parents and carers are supported. The main site in Rutland is in Oakham, with smaller rented venues providing outreach at Great Casterton, Uppingham, St Georges Barracks and Kendrew Barracks.</p> <p>We are proposing to transfer services delivered at the Children's Centre at Casterton to the other sites. This could mean the Casterton site will close but the service may look to rent a venue in this area.</p> <p>Our thinking also includes the introduction of charges for some services that may in the past have been provided for free. A range of activities delivered through the service may also be operated more commercially and the income generated will have to cover the costs.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Over £320,000 has been spent providing Children's centres in locations throughout the county – used by 1,260 families equating to 7,500 individuals last year.</p> <p>The site at Casterton is only open part time and the usage (140 different families) is considerably less than the main site in Oakham.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal is agreed after further consultation then those who access services at Casterton Children's Centre would need to travel to one of the other sites. The maximum travel distance would be to Oakham which is approximately 10 miles.</p> <p>Other services provided may incur a small charge to make them viable in the future.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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We currently provide information for families through a standalone team. Do you agree with our plans to join up with other information services within the council and link more closely with partners including health and voluntary sectors?

<b>Background</b>	<p>Since April 2008, every council has had a duty to provide a range of information which parents may need to support their children through to their 20th birthday.</p> <p>In Rutland, this is the responsibility of the Family Information Service (FIS).</p> <p>We are proposing a review of how we deliver this service to join up with other information services within the council as well as encouraging closer links with partners including Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector.</p> <p>The <a href="http://www.fis.rutland.gov.uk">www.fis.rutland.gov.uk</a> website will continue to provide information.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>The total average number of users on the <a href="http://www.fis.rutland.gov.uk">www.fis.rutland.gov.uk</a> website per month is 750 with spikes during school holidays.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal is agreed, those who access family information from the council may do so through a different route.</p> <p>If we are successful in encouraging partners to join together then an increased amount of information may be available.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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The council plans to reduce the level of offer provided by the youth service and this will see the number of supported youth clubs reduce from 8 to 3. Should the council encourage the voluntary and community sector to take on these services?

<b>Background</b>	<p>Rutland County Council provides a wide range of services for young people in Rutland aged between 13-19 years.</p> <p>Over 550 young people currently access this service, and our current thinking is that we need to operate an even more targeted service aimed at those who are most in need throughout the county.</p> <p>The current thinking is to retain youth projects in the main clusters of Casterton, Oakham and Uppingham but to withdraw provision from five other sessions including those in Whissendine, Kendrew Barracks and St George's Barracks.</p> <p>We are also looking to work more closely with health colleagues to support the health and wellbeing needs of young people.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>The Youth Service has already saved nearly £200,000 (42% reduction) since 2011.</p> <p>The number of 11-19 year olds involved currently stands at 550 with 88% of them rating the services as excellent.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal is accepted then some of the services we provide will only be offered to those who need them the most.</p> <p>We may also introduce a small charge for some activities to make them viable for the long-term. However, some things we do could have to stop if we cannot afford them.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Do you agree that carers in Rutland should receive similar levels of support to those living in neighbouring council areas?

<b>Background</b>	<p>We are proposing to review the level of support we provide to carers and compare this to other councils. We are also propose to use the Better Care Fund to support an increased number of carers</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>There are over 100 carers in Rutland that are supported by Rutland County Council, with 55 of them receiving an average weekly payment of £53.75. A small number of carers in addition receive a sitting service at an average of £43.75 per week.</p> <p>It's estimated that there are approximately 3,800 carers in Rutland which is approximately 10% of the population.</p> <p>Carers can also currently access support from the council's carer support workers and/or social workers and various voluntary sector support groups.</p> <p>This compares with a large number of local authorities that provide a one-off annual grant to carers which equates to much less than RCC provision.</p> <p>For example, Leicestershire is currently consulting on a non means tested annual grant of £100-250 per year.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal is agreed than carers might find that the level of financial support they receive is reviewed.</p> <p>The council will also be looking to work more than closely than in the past with the Voluntary and Community Sector to increase other ways of providing support that will be available to all.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Rutland County Council spends a considerable amount of money on Community Care Packages; this includes Direct Payments. Do you agree with setting an upper limit for packages and reviewing these annually?

<b>Background</b>	<p>The council is committed to supporting people to live full and independent lives within their local communities. Where people are eligible for social care support the aim is to support them in a way that reflects their preferences.</p> <p>If people get help from social services, they can apply for direct payments. These effectively allow them to choose and buy the services they need for themselves, instead of the council making that decision for them.</p> <p>Funding direct payments is still the responsibility of the council and we are proposing to establish a financial threshold (maximum cap on care packages), which will represent the expected maximum weekly expenditure on a package of care that would meet agreed eligible need, whether that be through a direct payment or residential package equivalent.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>138 individuals have chosen to receive Direct Payments in Rutland and the level of support ranges from £23 to £600 per week.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this support had approval, the discussion would focus on the maximum cost to Rutland County Council being no more than the weekly cost to the council of a residential placement that could be commissioned to meet the individuals assessed eligible needs.</p> <p>Those receiving Direct Payments may also be required to make a contribution if the payment exceeds the costs of a residential payment.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Do you support council plans to deliver more services in the home to encourage and support people to live independently as long as possible?

<b>Background</b>	<p>We will be developing a strategy to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the future.</p> <p>We will be looking to work with providers on fair costs of residential and nursing care, in line with similar local authorities and national guidance.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Approximately 150 people are currently placed in residential care by the council and the cost of this is on average over £20,000 per year per person</p> <p>The care needs of a person with profound disabilities can sometimes total up to £50,000 per annum in providing care services.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>The council will be continuing to focus on making sure that sufficient capacity exists locally to cope with an increasingly elderly population.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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As less older people are choosing to use day care services/day centres, do you agree that we should look at different ways of supporting older people?

<b>Background</b>	<p>The council is looking at the future of older people day care services in full consultation with those who use the groups, their families and the staff who work there.</p> <p>A 3 year contract to provide the service ended on 31 March and having seen numbers dwindle in recent years, the council feels now is a good time to look at options.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Less than 25 people currently attend the 5 Age UK day centres across Rutland (in Cottesmore, Empingham, Oakham x2 and Uppingham).</p> <p>The contract costs the council £82,000 per year and also provides two part-time development workers who run social groups for active older people (these groups are unaffected).</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>Consultation is taking place with those involved and the outcome of that work, and the People First review, will help inform future decisions about this service.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Less older people are choosing to have a hot meal delivered to their home. Do you agree that the council should explore alternative ways of delivering the 'Meals on Wheels' service?

<b>Background</b>	<p>The council currently has a contract to deliver meals direct to the homes of older or more vulnerable members of our community.</p> <p>Our proposal is to find new ways of delivering this service using alternative means.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>This service is used by 22 people across the county and the council subsidises each meal by £2.75.</p> <p>We also provide 20 meals a week at day care centres – again at a cost to the council.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>The current contract will remain in place for a period of up to twelve months to allow us to work with the existing 22 service users to offer them support in finding alternatives.</p> <p>Alternatives such as home care and community based support will be phased in.</p> <p>If this proposal is agreed then no new clients will be offered the Meals On Wheels service when the new system is in place and they will be signposted to alternative ways of accessing similar services.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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The council has a responsibility to provide specialist transport to certain groups of vulnerable people and wants to know if you agree with the following principles?

- Not everyone will receive specialist transport free of charge
- Arrangements may change i.e. different vehicle, change of times
- We could provide you with money to arrange your own transport
- If you currently travel alone, you may have to share with others

### Background

The council currently provides funded specialist transport for a wide range of users including:-

- School children, college students, looked after children,
- Elderly residents receiving day care
- Children receiving respite care

Transport is a key area for the council and we spend a great deal of money in this area. For example, a student in a taxi with an escort travelling to a school approximately 30 miles from Oakham can cost £150 per day = £28,500 per year.

It's important we carry out a detailed review including:

- A case by case review of transport arrangements to make sure each service user is receiving the most appropriate and cost effective transport arrangements
- All current transport contracts will be subject to an in-depth review as they come up for renewal
- We will look at other ways of delivering the transport service including better use of the Voluntary and Community Sector and also exploring the possibility of providing our own Transport in more instances
- We will explore charging for services where national legislation allows us to

We will make a decision about whether we should continue to fund service users who already have access to other forms of transport.

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If you currently travel alone, you may have to share with others

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<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>The council has a duty to provide home to school transport for some children with special educational needs - this costs an average of £8k per child per school year but can cost £25k.</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>The outcome of this proposal could mean that, pending the outcome of any formal consultation, those currently receiving free transport may be required to pay in full or at least make a financial contribution. However, those people legally entitled to free transport will still receive this.</p> <p>Individual transport arrangements may change, this could be as simple as a different vehicle or people may be collected or dropped off at a different time. Those travelling alone may have to share transport in future.</p> <p>The other way that things could work is that service users could be offered the opportunity to arrange their own transport with money that the council provides for this purpose.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Do you think the council should review charges for Adult Learning to make sure they are in line with other providers?

<b>Background</b>	<p>Adult Learning includes a range of community-based and outreach learning opportunities and we need to take a more business-like approach.</p> <p>The proposal is to increase charges for some Community Learning courses, whilst increasingly targeting provision at some sections of the local community, in line with the requirements of the Skills Funding Agency.</p> <p>Adult Learning is designed to help people of different ages and backgrounds get a new skill, reconnect with learning, follow an interest, prepare to progress to formal courses, or learn how to support their children better.</p> <p>The council proposal for this area is to review charges for some community learning courses in line with other authorities and the requirements of the Skills Funding Agency.</p>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Adult Learning Community Learning courses provide courses for around 800 people annually</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If this proposal is accepted, then some learning could be provided at a higher cost to service users. This would be balanced by an increased number of courses, in many cases offered free of charge or with significant subsidy, being delivered to the more vulnerable members of our community.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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Should the council continue to provide support and challenge to those schools that drop to a level that causes concern or are not reaching their full potential?

<b>Background</b>	The council proposes the implementation of a learning strategy with appropriate resourcing that comes into force should standards at any of our schools drop unexpectedly or when they are not reaching their full potential.
<b>Did you know?</b>	<p>Rutland has a good reputation for good schools and providing an excellent education system for children and young people throughout the county.</p> <p>We work closely with Headteachers and Governors.</p> <p>There are 17 primary schools in Rutland and three secondary colleges (all academies).</p>
<b>What does it really mean?</b>	<p>If supported through consultation, those schools who find themselves dropping below the standards required or not reaching their full potential will be quickly offered support from the council to make improvements as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>Any outcomes from the People First review will be subject to further consultation as we understand our obligations to consult those particular groups of individuals who may be affected by specific proposals and the need to comply with statutory consultation requirements.</b></p>

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