



Rutland County Council

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Record of a meeting of the **PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00 pm on **Thursday 26 January 2012**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (in the Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mr J T Dale
Mrs J Figgis
Mr J Munton
Mrs L I Stephenson
Mrs C L Vernon
Mr A S Walters

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr P Goringe

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K A Bool, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services
Mr G Plews, Portfolio Holder for Youth, Sport and Community Safety
Mrs J Turner, Principal of Uppingham Community College
Mr S Williams, Principal of Catmose College

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs A S Brown Democratic Services Officer
Ms C Chambers Deputy Chief Executive & Strategic Director – People
Ms J Haigh Assistant Director for Services for People
Mr M Naylor Assistant Director for Services for People

APOLOGIES: Mr Clark and Mr Lammie

669 RECORD OF LAST MEETING

The Record of the Meeting of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 10 November 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

670 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Vernon declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 7, Employment and Training for Post 16 Year Olds, Item 11, Ofsted Reports of Recent Schools Inspections, and Item 12, Pupil Place Planning, as she works in education recruitment.

Mr Walters declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 11, Ofsted Reports of Recent School Inspections, as he shares parental responsibility for a child in attendance at Oakham CofE Primary School.

Mrs Figgis declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 11, Ofsted Reports of Recent School Inspections, and Item 12, Pupil Place Planning, as she works in education.

Mr Munton declared a personal but not prejudicial interest due to having two children within education in Rutland.

Miss Waller declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 10 Pupil Premium Grant as she is a school governor.

671 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations or questions received from members of the public.

672 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

673 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

674 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE PANEL FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

No matter was referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to call-in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

SCRUTINY

675 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FOR POST 16 YEAR OLDS

Presentations were received from Mrs Jan Turner, Principal of Uppingham Community College, and Mr Stuart Williams, Principal of Catmose College, in regard the employment and training for Post 16 year olds.

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At 7.17pm Mr Baines and Mrs Stephenson joined the meeting having previously indicated they may be slightly late.

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During consideration of the presentations received, the following points were noted:-

- i) The process of supporting children at age 11 regarding their chosen careers helps to manage their expectations by modifying and influencing their choices in line with their academic ability. If students have high aspirations, it was felt they should be encouraged to reach those goals. Often, students were unaware of their ability and had low aspirations as a result. Work was undertaken with these students also to encourage them to raise their goals.
- ii) Of those students who were not as academically advanced as others but who were more 'hands on' and had aspirations of setting up their own businesses, Members asked how many were supported by the schools and given information regarding business start-up.
- iii) Work experience undertaken in Spain and Germany was commended although this did not automatically see an increase in language options being taken.
- iv) Both Principals agreed that parental engagement was critical to the success of their children and of the college.

- v) Members felt that the basic skills of life were sometimes missed, for example timekeeping and attendance. Mr Williams explained that, at Catmose College, they have no bells which meant children were to take personal responsibility for reaching lessons on time. Additionally, to become a prefect, pupils were to complete an application which was included in a short listing process followed by interviews for the position. This method was to instil commitment in pupils and also prepare them for life in a workplace.

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Due to the complexity of Report No. 20/2012 and the time taken to prepare the report, Members agreed to take Item 12, Pupil Place Planning as the next item for consideration.

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676 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **AGREED** that the public and press be excluded from the meeting at this point for the discussion of this item, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure Rule 239, as this item of business is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

677 PUPIL PLACE PLANNING

Exempt Report No. 20/2012 was received from the Pupil Place Planning Task & Finish Group. Introducing the report, the Chairman, Miss Waller, apologised for the late circulation of the report. Miss Waller explained that the report included recommendations to Cabinet.

Agreed:

That recommendations 1 to 7 of the report be made to Cabinet.

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Members of the public and press were readmitted to the meeting at this point.

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678 OFSTED REPORTS FOR SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND FOSTER CARE INSPECTIONS

Report No. 17/2012 was received from the Strategic Director of Services for People, who introduced the report, advising that the action plan had been developed from the recommendations received following the inspections.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members questioned the methodology of the report and the effectiveness. Despite receiving a number of “good” and “outstanding” ratings, the overall score was “adequate”. Officers explained that Ofsted were required to follow strict criteria and formulae whilst undertaking their inspections, however the rating of “adequate” had been appealed against. It was noted that the leadership and management section within the Safeguarding Report was “adequate” and yet for Looked After Children, this area was “good”. The leadership and management team were the same for both areas.

- ii) Members commended officers for including clear headings and detail within the report which would allow them to clearly monitor progress in future.
- iii) Concern regarding the number of agency staff in employment in these areas was raised and the issue that the staff will not become permanent employees of the council due to the demand for these roles and the fact that agency staff receiving a greater remuneration than they would otherwise. This was an area currently under review by the authority as it had been identified as a problem area.
- iv) All partnerships for safeguarding were currently Leicestershire facing and the Safeguarding Board was conscious that some children would not necessarily attend Leicester services potentially attending Peterborough or Kettering instead. Discussions were ongoing on how to resolve the issue, especially in light of the current NHS reforms.
- v) Comments received suggesting that Performance Management was not as robust as expected were being dealt with by the Safeguarding Board, however the panel requested that they receive documents circulated to the board so that they can contextualise the information received within the reports presented to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel.

Agreed:

- 1) **That the contents of the inspections reports noted within Report No. 17/2012 and the direction of travel in relation to the response be noted and agreed.**

679 UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING

Report No. 19/2012 was received from the Strategic Director of Services for People.

Members were content with the report and made no additional comments.

Agreed:

- 1) **That the progress be noted and the actions taken endorsed.**

680 KEY STAGE 2 NATIONAL CURRICULAR ASSESSMENTS RUTLAND RESULTS 2011

Report No. 12/2012 was received from the Strategic Director of Services for People, who introduced the report, explaining that the data provided for the individual schools was exempt and, should detailed discussion be required. Mrs Chambers explained that the attainment and achievement levels of boys was an issue and, although some improvement had been made, it was acknowledged that further work was required in this area.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Styles of teaching had been predominantly beneficial for girls which may have resulted in the poor attainment levels for boys.
- ii) Despite targets being set within the report, no information for improvement was provided which would make it difficult for schools to focus on the relevant areas.

- iii) Although work was ongoing to support teachers, no evidence of the impact of this support was included within the report. Members hoped this would be included in future update reports.
- iv) Should an academies inspection rating not improve, there was little that the local authority could implement to rectify the situation. Legislation would not allow budgets to be cut, for example, but they were allowed to “name and shame” schools should this route be agreed. The Chair agreed to discuss this issue further with the Strategic Director for Services for People outwith.

Resolved:

- 1) That the information provided within Report No. 12/2012 be considered.

681 OFSTED REPORTS OF RECENT SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

Report No. 08/2012 was received from the Strategic Director of Services for People.

Members were content with the report and made no additional comments.

Agreed:

- 1) That the contents of Report No. 8/2012 be noted, including the inspection judgements, overall effectiveness, capacity for sustained improvement and the action of the schools in order to further improve.

682 TRANSPORT TASK AND FINISH GROUP PLAN

The Chairman explained the paper circulated regarding the Task and Finish Group for Public Transport, which would be a joint group with the Places Scrutiny Panel. Members were asked to advise Miss Waller if they wished to be part of the this Task and Finish Group. She would then discuss this further with Mr Dale, Chairman of the Places Scrutiny Panel.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND TOPICS

683 FORWARD PLANNING

Copies of the current Forward Plan were distributed.

684 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business had been previously notified to the person presiding.

685 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th April 2012 at 7.00pm

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

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