

Rutland County Council Task and Finish Groups

The Broad Topic Area:

Children's Social Care

The Specific Topic Area:

Safeguarding Adolescents:

High numbers of adolescents are assessed as being children in need, are looked after children or are subject to Child Protection Plans, making them a high-cost group of children. Their behaviour can be challenging for parents, schools and the community. More effective packages of support are required, with a focus on early intervention and in the context of "Think Family", to prevent homelessness, school exclusions, lack of training/employment, mental ill-health, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, offending, teenage pregnancy and other negative outcomes for this group of people and for those upon whom their behaviour impacts.

Our Ambition:

Review the needs of the adolescents known to RCC, identify whether these children and their families could have benefitted from earlier intervention, identify service gaps and agree a strategy to improve outcomes for adolescents, including a strong focus on early intervention, prior to adolescence.

Who and How We Shall Consult:

Adolescent Focus Group, which is meeting to collate data, identify whether these children and their families could have benefitted from earlier intervention, identify gaps in provision and devise an adolescent strategy for RCC in conjunction with key partners including:

- Health – Looked After Children nurse
- Academies
- Accommodation specialists/providers
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Children, young people and their parents/carers

Expertise Needed (Internal/External):

Receive report and proposed strategy from Adolescent Focus Group

Other help e.g. training, resources

Length of Time Needed

3 months