



# 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 13 June 2013**

- PRESENT:** Miss G Waller (Chairman, in the Chair)  
Mr M E Baines  
Mrs C Cartwright  
Mrs J K Figgis  
Mr J M Lammie  
Mr J Munton  
Mr M A Oxley  
Mrs L I Stephenson  
Mr A S Walters
- CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr Goringe Diocesan, Church of England  
Miss A Loomes Representative of Young People in Rutland  
Ms P Rubinstein Secondary Schools  
Miss L Taylor Representative of Young People in Rutland
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Ms C Chambers Strategic Director for People  
Miss M Gamston Democratic Services Officer  
Ms D Greaves Accountant (People)  
Mr M Naylor Assistant Director – Services for People
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Education & Children's Services
- APOLOGIES:** Ms S Gullan-Whur, Mr N M Wainwright

## 96 RECORD OF MEETING

- i) Mr Goringe requested that minute no. 218 dd) be altered to read “ ... that when a school converts there was an expectation that governance would remain balanced in the same way”.

Subject to the above, the Record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panels held on 18 April 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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7.04 pm Mr Baines joined the meeting

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## **97 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of item 12, Ofsted Reports on the One School Inspection Whissendine C of E Primary School, Miss Waller declared on grounds of probity as she is a governor at St Mary & St John C of E Primary School.

In respect of item 12, Ofsted Reports on the One School Inspection Whissendine C of E Primary School, Mrs Stephenson declared on grounds of probity as she is a teacher at Leighfield Primary School.

In respect of item 14, Update on Admissions to Schools for September 2013, Mrs Stephenson declared on grounds on probity as her son would be attending Uppingham C of E Primary School from September 2013.

## **98 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

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

## **99 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

The following question had been received from Mr Walters:

“Although the Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group is still receiving and collating information – there is already evidence from several sources of dissatisfaction with the service provided by CAMHS.

Would this Panel prefer that the representatives of CAMHS attend this scrutiny panel, possibly inviting also members of the adult panel, rather than the T&F Group interviewing CAHMS in isolation?”

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) That the Task and Finish Group was targetted on adolescents not children;
- b) That concerns had been expressed with the wider service offered by CAMHS;
- c) That it was understood that the CAMHS service was to be re-launched;
- d) That consideration would need to be given to the timing of an invitation to attend this Panel if the service was undergoing a re-organisation;
- e) That the way forward would be after identifying who to invite to request, in advance, a report on Rutland data and information.

### **AGREED:**

- i) That the Chairman, Miss Waller and the Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers would liaise regarding the invitation to CAMHS to attend a future meeting of this Panel.

## **100 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

**101 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**

**102 LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD BUSINESS PLAN**

A verbal update from the Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers, was received.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) That the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) was a statutory body holding local authorities to account for the safeguarding of children;
- b) That government policy stated that the Chair must be independent;
- c) That a date was to be arranged for the Chair to attend this Panel;
- d) That it had been decided, jointly with Leicestershire, to bring together the work of Local Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards as much of the work was a shared agenda. This had resulted in a joint business unit, executive and working groups that sat beneath the Board;
- e) Section 2. Strategic Priority Two: Secure confidence in the operational effectiveness of the Safeguarding Partner Agencies and Services through robust Quality Assurance and Performance Management of Safeguarding - Ref 2.7 B. In response to a question as to whether mental health should have a separate section and in light of the concerns expressed under minute number 96, particularly the lack of confidence with that particular service, the Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers, stated that she would raise the question of mental health having a separate section with the Board;
- f) That although the Board was able to hold partners to account for safeguarding it was not responsible for their overall effectiveness;
- g) That not all areas of high priority were necessarily high profile, for example, child sexual exploitation;
- h) The Chairman, Miss Waller, requested that future business plans annotated areas that were priorities for Rutland, if possible;
- i) Officers undertook to ascertain whether young people had been engaged with on the topic of child sexual exploitation;

**AGREED:**

- i) That Chair of the Board was to be invited to a future meeting of this Panel.
- ii) That the Strategic Director of People, Ms Chambers, would make the Board aware of the Panel's concern of mental health having a separate section.
- iii) That future business plans annotated areas that were priorities for Rutland, if possible.

- iv) Officers to ascertain whether young people had been engaged with on the topic of child sexual exploitation.

### **103 CHILD PROTECTION ACTION PLAN**

Report No. 143/2013 from the Strategic Director for People was received.

The Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers, introduced the report the purpose of which was to provide Scrutiny with the Action Plan setting out how the areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children will be addressed.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) Members were advised that since the publication of Report No. 143/2013 Item 7, Action "Ensure all relevant staff use the transfer protocol" had been completed and was now Green;
- b) The team was congratulated on the improvement of speed in achieving actions;
- c) Item 9, Action "Views of children and families to be collected systematically and reviewed". That the next stage would be to undertake an audit to measure impact/lessons learnt. Any outcomes from the undertaking of an audit would be reported to this Panel;
- d) That in the future this Panel might wish to discuss engagement across Children's Services as a whole;

#### **AGREED:**

- i) That the contents of Report No 143/2013 be noted.

### **104 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 4 2012/13**

Report No. 120/2013 from the Chief Executive was received.

The purpose of this report was to report to Cabinet on the Council's performance for the fourth quarter of 2012/13 and the year to date.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) P1075 – Achievement of 5 more A\*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including Maths and English (Paragraph 4.4 of Report No. 120/2013). 55% of pupils had achieved against a local target of 64% and a national average of 53.6%. Members were reminded that English and Maths, particularly English, had been impacted on last summer by the change in thresholds in grades between January and summer. This had impacted on each of the secondary schools in Rutland. However, as standards had been rising each year and each secondary school had been outstanding in terms of reports from Ofsted it was felt that this was an examination board 'blip' and the Local Authority was confident of the schools' ability to deal with internally;
- b) That targets were set in consultation with schools and were based on

- c) That the Local Authority was limited in its ability to impact on academies;
- d) That schools across the country had been similarly affected;
- e) P1047 – People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (paragraph 4.5 of Report No. 120/2013) – information on age, the impact in relation to children and action being undertaken to improve was requested;
- f) That it is government policy for local authorities to encourage schools to convert to academy status, in which Rutland had been quite successful. As a result, school improvement staff levels had been reduced to the absolute minimum. As Members had been informed at a previous meeting of this Panel Ofsted had reconsidered its inspection framework and the Authority would have responsibility for all standards including academies.
- g) Concern was expressed that schools that did not convert could become increasingly isolated; that consideration needed to be given on how to support/re-align with other schools;
- h) Customer Services (paragraph 4.12 of Report No. 120/2013) – Members were advised that Customer Services had been discussed in detail at the Resources Scrutiny Panel on 30 May 2013. The Customer Services team was undergoing a review and upon completion a report was to be taken to the Resources Scrutiny Panel in August 2013;
- i) The Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers, informed Members that the performance targets for Customer Services had been set for some time, and of these targets the percentage of abandoned calls target gave most cause for concern. Ms Chambers advised Members that she received daily statistics and on 12 June 2013 the percentage of abandoned calls stood at 4%. Members were also advised that the vacant post had been recruited to and it was hoped that member of staff would be available in July, however in the interim temporary support had been put in place;
- j) PI113 – Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds, a question was raised relating to the quoted figure of 778 people tested. Did this figure refer to Rutland and Leicestershire or was it Rutland specific. Officers undertook to notify members of the Panel whether it was Rutland specific or Rutland and Leicestershire. Members were advised that the target of 25% was an inherited target set by the NHS prior to the transfer of the public health service to the Local Authority;
- k) Members were advised that a campaign on sexual health in young people had been organised by the Rutland Youth Council;
- l) PI105 - The Special Education Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap in achieving 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE (including English and Maths), related to the gap in achievement between young people with SEN having a Statement of Special Needs and those who did not. Officers to supply Members with further information;
- m) PI123 – Stopping Smoking, Members were advised that this was an all age target calculated through the treatment programme;
- n) That training had been undertaken by staff, raising the profile of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). This had resulted in more children through CAF rather than straight into referral.

**AGREED:**

- i) That the overall position in relation to performance for the year 2012/13 be noted.
- ii) That information on age, the impact in relation to children and action being undertaken to improve in relation to P1047 – People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents be made available.
- iii) That Members be advised whether the 778 people referred to under P1113 – Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds, was Rutland specific or Rutland and Leicestershire.
- iv) That officers will supply Members with further information: P1105 - The Special Education Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap in achieving 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE (including English and Maths).

#### **105 Q4 FINANCIAL MONITORING AND DRAFT FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2012/13**

Report No. 122/2013 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received.

The purpose of this report was to inform Cabinet of the draft outturn figures (subject to audit) for the financial year 2012/13 and an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

During discussion the following points were raised:

- a) That Live @ had lost £16,000. The decision to stop the programme had initially seen some saving, this had been followed by a drop in income;
- b) Cost code 5300 – Special Educational Needs and Recoupment, showed as £295,026 over budget some of which was in relation to where schools had converted to academies and the Authority continued to pay through SEN but was accounted for elsewhere. For maintained schools the allocation was shown under a different cost centre;
- c) Cost code 5303 – Payments to schools, related to an underspend of £74,045 being paid to schools;
- d) Cost code 5377 - Special Educational Needs Transport, the forecast was based on Rutland County Council's number of school days. However with out of county placements the number of school days was lower in some counties resulting in lower transport costs. This resulted in a variance of a £22,000 saving between Q3 and Q4;
- e) That the reduction in primary school officer hours was due to the number of primary schools converting to academy status.

#### **AGREED:**

- i) That the contents of Report No 122/2013 be noted.

#### **106 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT POLICY – CONSULTATION**

A verbal update from the Assistant Director, Services for People, Mr Naylor, was received.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) That the School Improvement Policy had previously been discussed at this Panel;

- b) That it was felt that it was timely to look at responsibility as an Authority;
- c) That due to academy conversions the budget had fallen over the last two years.
- d) That Ofsted was taking a renewed interest in local authority services for school improvement;
- e) That the Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers and the Assistant Director, Services for People, Mr Naylor were meeting with the regional Ofsted on 14 June 2013;
- f) That the Authority had employed a specialist to produce a new policy for the Council;
- g) That the policy would be risk assessment based and would need to establish the Local Authority's role in terms of school improvement. It was envisaged that the policy would be introduced in September 2013;
- h) There was an expectation that it would offer an oversight on schools in Rutland and how to work with a school if it was deteriorating;
- i) That schools were expected to be self-improving.

#### **107 OFSTED REPORTS ON THE ONE SCHOOL INSPECTION WHISSENDINE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Report No. 148/2013 from the Strategic Director of People was received.

The Assistant Director, Services for People, Mr Naylor, introduced the report the purpose of which was to provide an overview of the Ofsted report about Whissendine C of E Primary School. Ofsted grading outcome "Outstanding" (Ofsted grading from last inspections in 2006 and 2010 – "Outstanding").

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That this was third consecutive inspection that Whissendine C of E Primary School had received a grading outcome of "Outstanding";
- ii) That the school was federated with St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School which had improved from a "Satisfactory" grading to "Good";
- iii) That the school had provided a lot of support to other schools in the county;
- iv) That the overall position as a Local Authority was to encourage collaboration between schools;
- v) That there was the possibility of the development of a multi-academy trust in Rutland;
- vi) That there was a number of organisations to assist schools in obtaining a better grading;
- vii) A key issue for the Local Authority was to ensure that some schools did not become isolated.

#### **AGREED:**

- i) That the content of Report No. 148/2013 noting the inspection judgements, overall effectiveness, capacity for sustained improvement and what the schools needs to do to improve further be noted.
- ii) That congratulations from the Panel should be passed onto the Headteacher and staff.

## 108 RYHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

A verbal update from the Assistant Director, Services for People, Mr Naylor, was received.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) That the Headteacher had left the school;
- b) That the Deputy Headteacher was acting Head on an interim basis;
- c) That leadership of the school was a key issue for parents;
- d) That changes were to be put in place by the Local Authority as soon as possible;
- e) That further work was to be undertaken regarding the Interim Executive Board, with the addition of a further member. It was envisaged that the Board would be in place in 2 to 3 weeks;
- f) That the Chair of the Interim Executive Board, a former head teacher, would be a representative from the Diocese;
- g) That there was a need to identify a head teacher from an "Outstanding" school to be on the Interim Executive Board;
- h) That Tor Clark, a former governor representative on this Panel, was to be a member of the Interim Executive Board;
- i) That one of the key issues for the Board to consider would be the leadership of the school;
- j) That it was a Department of Education requirement that there was sponsored conversion to academy status;
- k) That the Local Authority was working with Diocesan colleagues to identify a sponsor to enable conversion to take place;
- l) That the Interim Executive Board would lead the consultation with school, parents and teachers around the conversion process;
- m) That Ofsted was seeking a rapid solution;
- n) That strategy meetings are being held involving the Local Authority, school leadership team and the Local Leader of Education;
- o) That a key issue was to ensure parental confidence to avoid a falling roll;
- p) Concern was expressed about the morale of staff and pupils with the departure of the Headteacher. Members were concerned that the Deputy Head was sufficiently supported to enable changes to be made and for there to be an improvement in the quality of teaching;
- q) Members were advised that with the support of the Local Leader of Education and the Local Authority it was expected that the required changes would be achieved; that staff morale was reasonable given the circumstances;
- r) The IEB would be responsible for ensuring delivery of the priorities set out in the Local Authority's Statement of Action. There would be a process for monitoring improvements and monthly strategy meetings;
- s) Members requested a further review at the next meeting of this Panel including measures in place and actions taken. A verbal update with evidence of Key Performance Indicators and the critical path for actions.

### **AGREED:**

- i) A verbal update was to be received at the next meeting of this Panel.

## 109 UPDATE ON ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013



An update paper on School Admissions September 2013 was distributed at the meeting.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) That of the 69 students on the waiting list for Catmose College, all Rutland resident students had received an offer of an alternative school in Rutland;
- b) Officers were requested to provide, where possible, the following information:
  - i) The number of students from outside Rutland who had been offered a place in preference to students resident in the county
  - ii) The number of students Rutland residents and non-residents offered places and on the waiting list
  - iii) How many of the 69 students on the Catmose College waiting list attended primary school in Rutland
- c) Members were reminded that secondary schools in Rutland relied on out of county pupils to fill places;
- d) Concern was expressed at the low number of pupils at Exton & Greetham C of E Primary School with 4 offers having been made as at 13 June 2013. The roll was 36 out of a possible 70 pupils;
- e) Members were informed that the Headteacher was retiring and temporary arrangements were in place;
- f) That Primary School legislation meant that the Local Authority could not close a 'rural' designated school that had pupils. All primary schools in Rutland were designated as rural;
- g) Edith Weston Primary School – 14 offers had been made as at 13 June 2013. It was acknowledged that the roll at this school was affected by the constant movement around the barracks. Members were informed that the Headteacher was retiring and that the governing body was developing a federation with Brooke Hill Academy.

**AGREED:**

- i) That the School Placed Planning Report, containing an annex on the report of the Task and Finish Group (from c. 2011) would be brought to a future meeting of this Panel.
- ii) That Members would be provided with the information requested under item b) above.

**110 RISK REGISTER**

Report No. 145/2013 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received.

There was no discussion of this report.

**AGREED:**

- i) That the Panel noted the contents of the risk register and the actions underway to address the risks.

## 111 WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14 AND REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

To include:

- i) CAMHS
- ii) Report on Safeguarding Action Plan
- iii) Debate on user engagement (CC/GW)
- iv) Inclusion of environment/recycling (CC/GW)
- v) School Improvement Policy (dependent on timing)
- vi) Update on Ryhall C of E Primary School
- vii) School Place Planning
- viii) Targeted Youth Support
- ix) Chair of Safeguarding Board to a future meeting
- x) Q1 Performance Management Report (September meeting)
- xi) Q1 Financial Monitoring Report (September meeting)
- xii) Key Stage 2 & 4 Results – Rutland data (September meeting)
- xiii) Schools Admission Policy (September meeting)

### November

- i) Child Poverty
- ii) Youth Offending Team

### January (Budget meeting)

### February

- i) Youth Service
- ii) Health Services for Children
- iii) Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group

The Chair, Miss Waller and the Strategic Director for People, Ms Chambers to discuss the possibility of an extra Panel meeting.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, Mr Lammie, advised that the requirement of extra Panel meetings was to be discussed by the Scrutiny Commission.

## 112 REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER

This item was covered under agenda item no. 15.

## 113 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

### Membership and Chairmanship of the Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group

Mr Walters indicated his intention to resign from this Panel and Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group at the Council Meeting on 8 July 2013.

In the interim, as not all members of the Panel were present at the meeting, a replacement on the Task and Finish Group would not be sought. The Chairman, Miss Waller, would be seeking advice through the Scrutiny Commission as to whether the Task and Finish Group could run under the new rules governing proportionality.

Mr Walters was thanked for his contribution to the Panel and the Task and Finish Group.

**114 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 12 September 2013 at 7.00pm.

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**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32 pm**

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