



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 7.00pm on **Thursday 14 November 2013**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mrs J K Figgis
Mr J M Lammie
Mr J Munton
Mrs L I Stephenson

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr P Goringe Diocesan C of E
Ms P Rubinstein Secondary Schools

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr K Garcia Head of Service – Lifelong Learning
Mr M Naylor Assistant Director – Services for People
Miss L Tyers Democratic Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Education & Children’s Services
Mr R Begy Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Adult Social Care, Libraries, Museums and Culture (non-sport)
Mr R J Gale
Mr A Walters

APOLOGIES: Mrs Cartwright, Mrs Chambers, Ms Ghullan-Whur, Mr Oxley and Mr Plews

507 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 12 September 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

508 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In respect of item 7, Key Stage 2 and 4 results analysis, the following declarations of interest were made:

- Miss Waller stated that she was a governor at one of the schools listed
- Mrs Figgis stated that she taught Key Stage 2
- Ms Rubenstein stated that she was a governor at one of the schools listed
- Mrs Stephenson stated that she taught at one of the schools listed

509 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions from members of the public had been received.

510 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

511 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

512 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.

513 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Miss Waller advised that there was an urgent item of business to consider on Supported Youth Housing. This item would be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 3 December 2013 and this would be the only opportunity for this Panel to consider and comment on it.

SCRUTINY

514 SUPPORTED YOUTH HOUSING

Report No. 259/2013 from the Director of People was received and proposed a single integrated solution for young people who had been identified as medium risk, homeless and in need of supported accommodation and to relocate the People's directorate Team 2 (Stronger Communities).

During discussion the following points were noted:

- That the "Southwark Ruling" in 2009 clarified that when responding to homeless 16 and 17 year olds, local authorities had a statutory duty to assess all young people under the Children's Act 1989 and could not discharge their duties using homelessness legislation.
- The Jules One Stop building was owned by a Trust in memory of Julia Weight and was leased to the Council at a peppercorn rent. The building was now showing its age and money would need to be spent on the building.
- It was being proposed that Pinewood on Cold Overton Road be converted into a supported accommodation unit for young people incorporating the relocation of Team 2.
- The Weight family and Trust had agreed to sell the Jules building and that the money be used to convert Pinewood. \$106 money would also be available.
- Income would be received from the young people's housing benefit and it was a good opportunity to recover a significant amount. Some of the young people may still be at school and homeless through family circumstances.
- The new unit would be able to accommodate five young people and Leicestershire had already given a commitment to take any vacant places. The costs of the project had been based on holding some empty spaces and there was a plan to sell places if necessary.
- It was suggested that consideration should be given to the unit running with one vacancy at all times to ensure space was available for Rutland young people.
- There would be supervision of the young people from the staff working in Team 2 but a budget had been included for any potential damage to the building caused by the young people.
- Officers had given an assurance that staff did have the appropriate skill set to deal with the young people and training would be provided where necessary.
- It was confirmed that the age of the young people could be up to 25, however the aim was to get them into independent living within 2-3 years as it was important to ensure that places were not blocked.

- This would be an exciting project which was a good and progressive way of supporting vulnerable young people.

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 259/2013 be noted.

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Mr Begy left the meeting.
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515 RUTLAND ADULT LEARNING SERVICES

Report No. 263/2013 from the Director of People was received and presented a summary of future development proposals for the Rutland Adult Learning Service.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- There is a need to improve the service following the previous inspection of the service. The service is anticipating a further inspection in or soon after February 2014. The introduction of an Improvement Board with regular meetings has introduced a rigorous monitoring of the service improvement action plan.
- It was clarified that the service is judged by Ofsted on the same grading basis as for a school and under the new arrangements it would now be judged as requiring improvement.
- The Council is looking to outsource the adult skills funded part of the service. This is because the government's policy around the skills agenda was growing fast. The service has coped up to now but does not have the resources and experience to deliver the adult skills programme in-house and experienced organisations outside of the Council may be better able to deliver the necessary skills programme.
- The quality of the report was raised by Panel members as it was felt it could provide greater clarity and explanation of the work of the service. Some technical terms were used which were not understood.
- The service had not been considered by Scrutiny for a long time and it was suggested that an update and summary of the work of the service could be put together for councillors' information. This summary should be sent to all councillors and non-elected members.
- As a final decision on the procurement process would be considered by the Cabinet in March 2014, it was suggested that a further paper be brought back to the Panel's meeting in March. The future paper should clarify the outsourcing process.
- Officers stated that they would check the procurement process and timeline to clarify whether a future report could be brought to Panel. The Panel noted this but reiterated the request for a further report.
- Officers were asked to clarify what the Council's position was now in relation to Ofsted. They clarified that a significant number of improvements and changes had been made but the performance of the service requires further improvement. It has been a difficult time for staff but the service was now working with Ofsted's Getting to Good Programme. A number of complex processes were being managed simultaneously including the procurement process, staff restructure and delivering the improvement programme.
- Officers were asked to explain why the Council still ran an adult learning service. It was clarified that the service was meeting a local learning need. With the improvement programme and procurement process it was believed that this was an important time for the service to adjust to changes in the national skills agenda and an opportunity to keep the service functioning for the benefit of Rutland adult learners.

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Mr Baines and Mrs Stephenson joined the meeting at 8.04pm

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- It was confirmed that more information about the service would be provided to all councillors; it would be explored through the Scrutiny Commission how a report could be brought back to a future meeting; and Miss Waller would approach Mr Begy to speak at Cabinet about the Panel's view of the paper received tonight.

516 KEY STAGE 2 AND 4 RESULTS ANALYSIS

Report No. 243/2013 from the Director of People was received and presented analysis of the Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 results for Rutland.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- That the Key Stage 2 results had now been validated and that Key Stage 4 were still provisional.
- That the Key Stage 2 results for Catmose Primary School had been annulled so officers had attempted to set out the results both with and without Catmose Primary included. An investigation into what had happened at Catmose had been held internally by the school.
- That Catmose Primary had sent a letter to parents about their results and the Panel questioned whether the letter was in the public domain. Officers clarified that maladministration had been found in relation to the maths papers. The school had made a submission to the assessment board but to get a copy of the letter would require approaching the school directly.
- The Panel felt that it was important to know what exactly had happened and who was responsible as this was a very serious matter and it was important to ensure that it never happened again.
- It was agreed to request that the Portfolio Holder approach the Director of People to request Mr Williams at Catmose for an explanation of what had happened. Once a response had been received the Panel would consider what to do next.
- Mr Gale advised that as a ward councillor he would personally write to Mr Williams himself.
- The government had now introduced a progression measure alongside the attainment measure which had shown a different picture. Mr Goringe advised that Ofsted were very interested in the new figures around progress and they would be crucial measurements in the future.
- The Panel were disappointed that the adjusted figures had shown that Rutland's ranking had dropped from first to fourth, which suggested that other authorities' schools were doing better.
- The Council was currently developing an approach to school improvement which would include how to work with schools going forward, especially with academies who have no requirement to provide us with information. A risk assessment approach model was being developed and would not just look at Ofsted ratings. A report on the new approach would be brought to the next meeting.
- That it would be useful in future reports that the tables included how many children were in each cohort.
- That Exton, Empingham and St Mary & St John be congratulated on their performance.
- The validated figures for Key Stage 4 would be published in January 2014 and would be brought to the Panel in February.
- It was of great concern that the tables showed that the most vulnerable children in Rutland were being least well served.
- Information on the rates of attendance around Free School Meals would be useful. There was a level of information which was available and it may be useful to look

at how the pupil premium was used in schools and was it being used effectively. It may be useful to talk to Mrs Chambers about whether there would be an opportunity for one or two primary heads to attend a future meeting to talk about how the pupil premium was being used.

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 243/2013 be noted.

517 RYHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

During discussion the following points were noted:

- That HMI had made a second visit and judged that the school was making sufficient progress. There had generally been positive feedback but a comment was made that there was a legacy of poor teaching from which the school had some catching up to do. HMI had stated that the pupils were fantastic and the school had very good potential.
- That there had been limited progress regarding academisation of the school but discussions were being held with a potential sponsor. The government was currently cautious about ensuring sponsors were of the right calibre.

518 WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14 AND REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN

To include:

- New Ofsted Framework & School Improvement
- Quarter 3 Performance Report (agreed not to receive Quarter 2)
- Safeguarding Adolescents Task and Finish Group
- Validated Key Stage 4 and Rutland College Key Stage 5

Mr Walters reminded the Panel that responsibility for community safety came under the remit of this Panel and that under legislation there was a requirement to consider an annual report. This had not been undertaken for a number of years. He also did not believe that it should come under this Panel's remit. Mr Lammie advised that there was currently a debate about where community safety sat and he was currently formulating a response to Mr Walters and would circulate a copy to the Panel.

519 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 January 2014 – Special Budget Meeting
Thursday 27 February 2014

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.38pm.

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