



Record of a Meeting of the **PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.30pm on **Thursday 16 January 2014**

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Ms D Greaves Accountant
Mr M Naylor Assistant Director – Services for People
Ms W Poynton Assistant Director -Services for People
Mrs S A Ramsay Support Officer

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 D L Richardson
Mr A Walters

YOUTH COUNCIL: Miss A Loomes
Miss R Conway

APOLOGIES: Ms Ghullan-Whur, Mr Goringe, Mr Oxley and Ms Rubenstein

700 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest in respect of the item on the Agenda.

701 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

702 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

SCRUTINY

703 BUDGET 2014/15, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Report No. 286/2013 from the Director of Resources was received

The purpose of the report was to agree detailed budget proposals for 2014/15 for consultation and to inform Members of the estimated position on the Collection Fund at 31 March 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That on considering the savings proposals regarding the Child Minder Start Up Grant the Panel proposed the discontinuation of the Grant as the Authority offered an alternative finance option through its business loan scheme;
- ii) That the Mentoring Service was no longer required. Officers were not aware of any impact on young people no longer having this support;
- iii) Positive Activities (cost centre 5273) – that consideration was being given to ensure that only those entitled to the service received it. Officers undertook to provide information on external funding;
- iv) Cessation of Graduate Leader Fund (cost centre 5305) – the phasing out of this funding, the purpose of which was to support people in childminding settings to achieve qualification, would not impact on those currently on the programme who would continue to receive support;
- v) That the £50,000 saving identified for Special Educational Needs Transport was a target not yet delivered but aimed at by the review of Home to School Transport arrangements being undertaken. Members were advised that this was part of a larger budget pressure and could be a challenge to deliver;
- vi) That the £140,000 saving identified under PE022 Overall Structure was a saving identified for 2013/14 as a structural saving within the People Directorate that had not been delivered;
- vii) Members were advised that Stronger Families – Aiming High (cost centre 4208) related to disabled child support outside of school with the vast majority of the budget being spent on activities; this enabled the parents have some respite. Troubled Families (cost centre 5240) was a national programme which set targets to identify vulnerable families; funding given where successful. Children’s Centres (cost centre 5371) were satellites, for example, Visions and community projects (previously Sure Start) used to identify vulnerable families. Evidence showed that early intervention had a profound impact on future behaviours;
- viii) That external grant funding of the Youth Council had been cut significantly from two years ago. RCC ensured that the Youth Council received sufficient resources to enable it to operate. The Youth Council has been successful in securing a £5,000 per annum grant from an external source to continue supporting a small grants programme as in previous years. Concern was expressed that there might be a possibility of losing the Youth Council in the future as it was felt that youth members were valuable to the Council in ensuring that it listened to the whole demographic of Rutland;
- ix) That the redirection of savings from one cost centre to another needed to be fully considered by Council as part of the budget setting process;
- x) Members asked if more detailed background information could be provided for the various cost centres in the report;
- xi) That Voluntary Sector Grants (cost centre 4670) savings resulted primarily from the retendering of contracts;
- xii) That the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme (cost centre 5282) was for children disengaged from school or might be excluded. The Authority had an officer to support schools and children and was responsible for home schooling, if necessary;
- xiii) That Teenage Sexual Health (cost centre 5389) was now funded from Public Health;
- xiv) That the quarterly financial management report gave an opportunity to review the direction of spend and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Agreed:

1. That the Panel noted the content of Report No. 286/2013.
2. That more detailed background information be provided to Members to support the cost centre lines in the budget.
3. That officers would provide information to Members on external funding for Positive Activities (cost centre 5273).

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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