



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 758307 DX 28340 Oakham

Record of a Meeting of the **PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00pm on **Thursday 1 May 2014**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mrs C Cartwright
Mr J M Lammie
Mr J Munton
Mrs F Figgis

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Miss A Loomes Representative of Young People in Rutland
Mr P Goringe Diocesan C of E

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs G Rhodes-White Interim Director – Services for People
Mr M Naylor Assistant Director – Services for People
Ms W Poynton Assistant Director – Services for People
Miss K Knowles Corporate Support Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Mr A S Walters
Mr P Burnett Independent Chair – LSCB & SAB for Leicestershire & Rutland

APOLOGIES: Ms Rubinstein, Ms S Gullan-Whur, Mr M A Oxley, Miss R Conway, and Mr N Wainwright

1004 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 13 February 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The record of the Special People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 31 March 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman. There was one alteration to the minutes and this was to include the statements that Mr Bool, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People pass the comments from the Panel to the Secretary of State.

1005 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Figgis stated that she worked one day a week at Edith Weston Primary School and so would be leaving the meeting when the Ofsted Report was discussed

Miss Waller, Chairman, stated that she was a Governor at St Mary & St John's Primary School and would need to leave the meeting when the Ofsted Report was discussed. At this stage another chair for the meeting would be voted in.

1006 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

1007 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

1008 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

1009 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

At the start of the meeting the agenda and the order of the agenda was changed. The Urgent Care Consultation Report No. 113/2014 was taken off the agenda as agreed by the Chair.

1010 BUSINESS PLAN OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING BOARDS

Report No. 114/2014 from the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB) / Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

The Independent Chair for LSCB & SAB for Leicestershire and Rutland, Mr Burnett introduced the report, the purpose of which was to inform the Scrutiny Panel about the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board draft business plan 2014/15. The Scrutiny Panel were to consider the plan and identify any changes they wanted to make before the report was published.

The Independent Chair stated that the plan combined children and adult priorities and that the Panel could helpfully focus on Priorities 1, 2, 2C, 3A, 4 & 5.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The Independent Chair stated that there were two definitions of 'missing'. The first was around a child not being in a place that they should be and the second was around a child that had actually gone missing. There were new guidelines for the police and other agencies in relation to the first definition to ensure an integrated response for any child that was missing whether they were 'looked after' or not. It was hoped that this response was going live in September 2014 but this depended upon securing resources.
- ii) The Independent Chair stated that young people had fed back that they were aware of Stranger Danger and how it related to the Internet and actually wanted this to form part of the business plan and that they were also asking for feedback about what services were doing in relation to Internet dangers. The Independent Chair agreed to amend the wording in 2a.3 to make this clearer.

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 47/2014 be noted.

1011 ADOLESCENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Report No. 111/2014 from the Chair of the Task and Finish Group was received.

The Chair from the Task and Finish Group, Miss Waller, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to present the work and findings of the Adolescent Task and Finish Group established by the People (Children's) Scrutiny Panel on 29th November 2012.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members expressed their congratulations and appreciation to the Chair for pulling together the strands of work in the report. A vote of thanks was recorded as the report was an extensive consideration to an important group of people.
- ii) Members requested officers' reassurance that findings in the report be fully integrated into the People First Review. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, stated that items raised were already on the agenda and that the review would encompass some of this.
- iii) The recommendations of the report, point 2.3, stated that officers were to report to the panel by the end of September 2014 the findings of the work carried out on safeguarding in schools. It was agreed that an extension in time would be agreeable for a fuller report to be received. The panel agreed that the report would be received by the panel by November 2014.
- iv) It was agreed that a further recommendation, to be 2.5, be added to the report stating that Officers provide a response to the panel on the whole report by November 2014.
- v) Members asked for reassurance that feedback will go to the Youth Council and it was confirmed by the Youth Council representative that was the case. A member from the Task and Finish Group would be made available to feedback with the Youth representative if requested.
- vi) The LSCB needed to be aware of the issues raised in the report and the responses from Officers. The LSCB will keep a watching brief.

AGREED:

- 1) There was a unanimous vote from members that the recommendations of Report 111/2014 be met; and
- 2) A further recommendation be added to the report stating that Officers provide a response to the Panel by November 2014.

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8pm Mr Burnett left the meeting and did not return.

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1012 PEER CHALLENGE TEAM REVIEW

Report No. 112/2014 from the Director for People was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to present the findings of the Peer Challenge Team Review which took place at the end of February 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Officers noted the request from Members that the wording in the report and any future reports be written in plain English leaving jargon and acronyms out. Point 3.6 of the report was cited as an example of why this was needed.
- ii) The Clinical Commissioning Group was taking account of feedback to improve access to Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Interim Director for People had also written to the CAMHS commissioners and providers directly after the report and was leading an immediate piece of work to improve practice by raising specific cases with CAMHS.
- iii) Officers explained that the Rickter Scale was a nationally recognised model for working with children, young people and families. It was a simple scoring system and methodology that measured progress and could be shared with families and across agencies. RAISE is the Council's computer software system for recording client contacts and case management for children and adult cases.
- iv) Officers stated that RAISE was not always an easy system to navigate and some developments and enhancements were to be made and added to the system to address this issue.
- v) Members wanted to know whether paper records were also kept on cases. Officers confirmed that there were some paper records and would provide members with further details on the criteria for this.
- vi) It was agreed that when this report went to Cabinet on Tuesday 6 May 2014 the Panel would reflect back the concerns about the RAISE IT system and about CAMHS access.

AGREED:

- 1) That the contents of Report 37/2014 be noted; and
- 2) Concerns around the RAISE system be raised with Cabinet.

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8.21pm Mrs Rhodes-White left the meeting and did not return.

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1013 KEY STAGE 4 ANALYSIS 2013

Report No. 115/2014 from the Director for People was received.

The Chair informed the panel that Key Stage 5 analysis would be taken at a later date when more research into the area had been undertaken.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to present the analysis of the Key Stage 4 results for review and comment.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Officers agreed that more analysis around the data is needed and it was agreed that a detailed report would be taken by the panel at the 5 June meeting.
- ii) Officers explained that the criteria for determining if a child has special educational needs was the same county wide and applied to those children that had gone through the Statementing process. Members felt that an understanding around the proportion of children with a Special Educational Needs Statement in Rutland compared to national figures was needed in order to provide a comparison.
- iii) Officers agreed to clarify the criteria and figures for free school meals across schools and colleges in a future report.

- iv) More information on free school meals and special needs was welcomed by the panel and the Chair reminded Officers that the Learning Strategy needed to be seen again by the panel before going to Cabinet in the summer.

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 115/2014 be noted.

1014 OFSTED REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF RUTLAND ADULT LEARNING SERVICE

Report No. 116/2014 from the Director for People was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to provide an overview of the Ofsted Inspection reports relating to Rutland Adult Learning Service (RALS) which Ofsted graded as 'Requires Improvement'

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Officers informed the panel that Cabinet had approved the procurement of 'Award of Contract' to Peterborough to sub-contact adult learning courses from September for the year. Peterborough as a provider offered a wide range of courses which Ofsted were looking for. Peterborough were also in a good position to be flexible to deliver changes in requirements.
- ii) Members were concerned about the public having to travel to Peterborough for courses. Officers explained that detailed contractual negotiations have taken this into account. Peterborough were to deliver as much as they could in Rutland and only deliver courses in Peterborough where specialist equipment / facilities already existed in Peterborough.
- iii) Members were concerned at how Ofsted viewed the way the service was split. Officers explained that Rutland County Council was the contract holder.
- iv) Members were concerned about the problems with the new premises on the Catmose campus. Officers explained that a specialist health and safety consultant had been brought in alongside another specialist to look at CO2 levels. The Council did not want to commission a lot of work around this until the situation had been fully investigated. Officers confirmed that the CO2 did need adjusting but that the environment was not unsafe. Staff perception had become more of an issue due to them feeling that the environment was airless.
- v) Members felt that when an Ofsted report had been released schools should be invited in to discuss Ofsted's findings. Officers were keen to ensure that schools were clear on how this worked so that the best outcomes were realised. The Chair stated that she would meet with the Interim Director for People to establish a way forward and email the panel with an update. Members held a vote to set out the terms of reference in relation to Ofsted reports and the inviting of schools to the Panel. The wording agreed, unanimously, was "*The Children's Scrutiny Panel expresses a wish that for each Ofsted report that comes to the panel that they invite the Head and Chair of Governors to take questions and give a presentation on their view of the report*".

AGREED:

- 1) That the contents of Report 116/2014 be noted;
- 2) That the Children's Scrutiny Panel expresses a wish that for each Ofsted report that comes to the panel that they invite the Head and Chair of Governors to take questions and give a presentation on their view of the report.

1015 FORWARD PLAN

It was agreed by the panel that with the meeting being the last in the municipal year the Forward Plan was to be considered by the next panel

1016 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was none from the panel.

1017 OFSTED REPORTS ON THE INSPECTION OF EDITH WESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ST MARYS AND ST JOHNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report No. 117/2014 from the Director of People was received.

The Panel agreed that Mr Baines would take the Chair for discussion around St Mary and St Johns Ofsted report.

Children and Young People Portfolio Holder, Mr Bool introduced the report, the purpose of which was to provide an overview of the Ofsted Inspection reports relating to Edith Weston Primary School and St Mary and St Johns Primary School.

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Miss Waller left the meeting at 9.30pm and Mr Baines took over as Chair.

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During discussion the following points were noted:

St Mary and St Johns Primary School

- i) Members felt that the good results in the report were testimony to the leadership of the Interim Head, Mr Scott, and the current Head, Mrs Wilce, over the last 14 months. There had been rapid improvement and members felt the Governors needed congratulating.

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Mr Walters left the meeting at 9.35pm and did not return

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- ii) Members were concerned at how prior poor leadership at the school went on for so long and asked officers for reassurance that the Council had a process in place to ensure that this wouldn't happen again. Officers stated that the Council's process was now more robust. The Learning and Achievement strategy detailed the new approach.

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Mrs Figgis left the meeting at 9.45pm and did not return

Miss Waller returned to the meeting at 9.45pm and took over from Mr Baines as Chair

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Edith Weston Primary School

- i) Members felt that there were many positive points within the report that needed noting and that the environment of the school needed to be understood.
- ii) Members wished for clarity on a couple of points. Firstly they wished to understand why the number of lessons observed by the Ofsted inspectors was fewer than at St Mary and St Johns Primary School. Secondly with regards to

lack of progress in Key Stage 1 & 2 as cited in the Ofsted report, members enquired whether the same children were being compared because of Army troop movement. Officers agreed to feed back to the board on the points raised for clarification.

iii) Members felt that the school had still achieved a lot in a very short time.

1018 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5 June 2014 – Joint Meeting with People (Adults and Health) Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 31 July 2014 – Children's Scrutiny

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.02pm.

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