



Rutland County Council

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

Record of a Joint Meeting of the **PEOPLE (ADULTS & HEALTH) AND PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANELS** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00pm on **Thursday 5 June 2014**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mrs Cartwright
Mr J M Lammie
Mr J Munton
Mrs F Figgis
Mr C Parsons
Mr N Wainwright
Mr A Walters

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Ms P Rubinstein Secondary School

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs H V Briggs Chief Executive
Mrs G Rhodes-White Interim Director – Services for People
Miss K Knowles Corporate Support Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Mr R Begy Portfolio Holder for Culture, Community Safety and Housing
Mrs L Stephenson Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

APOLOGIES: Ms S Gullan-Whur, Mr Woodcock, Mrs Emmett, Mr Goringe, Mr Baines and Mr Gale.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

55 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

56 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

57 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

58 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.

JOINT SCRUTINY

The Chairman explained to the panel that Report 125/2014 had exempt information and that the version being referred to was the report to be taken to Council on 9 June 2014. The Chairman reminded the panel that items in the exempt section of the report must not be referred to until the end of the meeting when an exempt session could be entered into.

59 PEOPLE FIRST REVIEW & UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE DIRECTORATE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The People First Review and Report No. 125/2014 from the Chief Executive was introduced by the Chief Executive as one agenda item.

The Chief Executive reminded the panel why the review was needed including:

- i) In January 2014 members approved recommendations in Report 10/2014 which included noting the objectives and scope of the People First Review and the indicative financial savings targets of £1.5-£2m.
- ii) Reasons for the review were highlighted as detailed in Report 10/2014 and remained unchanged.
- iii) The People Directorate accounted for 45% of Council spending with an overall budget of £13.8m so a review was essential.
- iv) £1.5m saving meant that the position in 2018/19 showed a spending of £1.457m more than income coming in.
- v) The medium term financial plan (MTFP) showed reserves of £4.8m so the People First review allowed proposals to be consulted and reflected on and for changes implemented over a phased 2-3 year period.
- vi) Progress on the review was highlighted as having showed an excellent response through the eight week Consultation and Engagement period
- vii) Consultation period concluded 13 June 2014. Reports for consideration followed to the Project Board (2 July), the Assurance Panel (4 July) and Scrutiny (21 August).

The Chief Executive introduced Report 125/2014, the purpose of which was to address the recommendations in the Report relating to the People Directorate's Senior Management Team. This was the first stage and the new Director had the responsibility for developing the full structure based on the outcomes of the People First Review in context with the MTFP and statutory obligations in all areas of activity. Three applications had been received for the role, two were shortlisted and invited to an assessment centre on 12 June. A provisional Chief Officers Appointment panel had been convened for 13 June subject to the outcome of Council on Monday 9 June and the assessment centre on 12 June. The candidates were aware of the circumstances and pending decisions.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The Chief Executive stated that previous budget decisions impacted on the Youth Service and some of the current position with regards to Youth Support was a legacy of decisions made by Council. There was a willingness from young people and the voluntary sector to work with the Council to protect Youth Services which gave opportunity for communities to help run these services.
- ii) 'Sessions' at Youth Centres are not the same as 'venues'
- iii) The percentage breakdown of the 550 young people accessing youth projects across the three main clusters was agreed to be sent out to all members of both Scrutiny Panels.
- iv) Work and funding around youth services with St George's Barracks was looking positive in the same way that this had worked with Kendrew Barracks.
- v) The Chief Executive stated that with regards to the review of support provided to Foster Carers the whole cost package provided to them, including other services, was looked at and not just the salary that Foster Carers got paid.
- vi) Foster Carers being responsible for supervising contact would be done on a case by case basis.
- vii) The additional costs in 2013 for foster care was due to a special and successful initiative to ensure that where appropriate Rutland children could be fostered close to home.
- viii) The Chief Executive was producing a paper around 'flexibilities and freedom' to government highlighting rules and bureaucracy restricting cost effective solutions for rural areas.
- ix) The Chief Executive confirmed that there wasn't a problem with the Children's Centre at Casterton other than the location of it.
- x) Specialist transport was a big area to be reviewed that would need rationalising and delivering in a completely different way. Parents receiving the specialist transport for their child will also need to be considered as part of a potential solution alongside tackling the issue of duplication of funding provisions (eg. Mobility allowance and transport).
- xi) The Chief Executive explained that the preferred solution for residential care was to aid the elderly and the vulnerable to live at home independently unless they really wanted to go into residential care. Looking out of County for residential care was a last resort. An assessment of need to identify the best care package for each person was needed alongside a financial assessment around service users' ability to contribute to their care package. The financial assessment was set against a government funding scheme. Care homes in Rutland were more expensive than ones outside of the County due to market forces. Providers of care homes sometimes saw self-funders as an opportunity to increase costs.
- xii) The decreasing numbers using day care centres and meal on wheels was considered counter-intuitive in light of an increasing aging population in Rutland. Alternatives to services and taking a step back to look at what people really need now was considered a priority.
- xiii) The chair stated that more work needed to be done around youth services but at the next Children's Scrutiny on 26 June Members would have the opportunity to ask for more information.
- xiv) The Chief Executive reminded members that the next Joint Scrutiny on 28 August will review the report and the next stage of the People First review.

oOo---

8.30pm Mr Parsons left the meeting and did not return.

---oOo---

- xv) The Chief Executive explained that 'One Council' is about matrix management across the council. It made sense to move the Contracts and Procurement team into the Resources Directorate. Links between that team and the commissioner's

work had to be strong to ensure that the procurement team secured best value for money and the right services.

- xvi) The Chief Executive assured the panel that the budgets linked to services moving from the People Directorate into either the Places Directorate or the Resources Directorate would be retained by the service area and moved with them.
- xvii) Discussion around savings to be made such as sharing a Director with another Authority was outweighed with the need for Rutland to stay independent to meet the needs of children and young people living in Rutland. Investing heavily in the next management tier down was needed to support a shared Director thus only making marginal savings at best.

---oOo---

It was recommended to determine whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure Rule 239, as defined in Paragraph 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Panel AGREED to move into exempt session to enable detailed discussion on appendix 1b and 4 of report 125/2014. The public left the meeting.

---oOo---

---oOo---

Mr Munton left the meeting at 8.50pm and did not return.

---oOo---

---oOo---

The meeting returned to public session and the press and public were able to return.

---oOo---

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 125/2014 be noted.

60 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was none from the panel.

61 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 June 2014 – People (Children) Scrutiny Panel.

---oOo---

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

---oOo---