



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 26 June 2014**

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

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Mrs G Rhodes-White	Interim Director – Services for People
	Mr K Garcia	Head of Service – Learning & Skills
	Miss K Knowles	Corporate Support Officer

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE:	Mr K Bool	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
	Mr N Hemstock	Specialist Clinical Director for CAMHS
	Ms J Fenelon	Chair of Healthwatch Rutland

APOLOGIES: Mr M E Baines, Mr P Goringe, Ms S Gullan-Whur, Miss R Conway

125 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 1 May 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The record of the Joint People (Children & Adults / Health) Scrutiny Panel held on 5 June 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Walters explained that he would be leaving the meeting when report 146/2014 Annual Safeguarding Children's Report was discussed. The chair agreed to take this report at the end of the meeting after any other urgent business.

127 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

128 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

129 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

130 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. CAMHS Provision in Rutland was added to the agenda and Report No. 146/2014 Annual Safeguarding Report was agreed to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

131 CAMHS PROVISION IN RUTLAND

Mr Hemstock, Specialist Clinical Director for CAMHS, outlined the consultation stating that the proposal was to move the specialist inpatient service from Oakham House to Coalville Hospital as a temporary solution. The permanent location was to be at the Glenfield Hospital site.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That local people would get priority over beds.
- ii) There was a land swap going ahead and the permanent location was closer to Leicestershire County Council's County Hall.
- iii) Excluding Leicester the closest units with beds are Nottingham, Northampton and Lincoln and in some cases nurses are placed in service users' homes.
- iv) A project officer was reviewing Tier 3 provision.
- v) There was a concern around the budget for the new permanent provision being too high.

AGREED:

- 1) The panel supported the temporary move to Coalville Hospital
- 2) The panel requested an increase in beds at the permanent location of Glenfield Hospital
- 3) The panel requested that priority for beds be given to Leicestershire and Rutland residents
- 4) The panel requested that CAMHS reviewed budget for the new provision.
- 5) The panel requested that the views of Rutland were fully taken into account by the project officer appointed to reviewing Tier 3 provision.

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7.30pm Mr Hemstock left the meeting and did not return.

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132 LEARNING AND SKILLS STRATEGY

Report No. 146/2014 from the Director of People was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to provide information on the Rutland County Council Learning and Skills Strategy 2014-2016 and the School Improvement Strategic Plan 2014-2016.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members agreed that the report was a significant improvement on the previous report received by the panel on 13 February 2014 report no. 47/2014.
- ii) Members were reassured that the new Learning and Skills team structure was necessary and that a Head of Service and Team Manager was needed to ensure that the heavy education and schools improvement workload was met.
- iii) Members asked that the Learning and Skills Performance Board report to the Scrutiny Panel three times a year in line with and following the Board's meetings.
- iv) Members requested that the role of the Scrutiny Panel and the Panel taking Ofsted reports be detailed within the strategy.
- v) With regards to the membership of the Learning and Skills Performance Board the Panel felt that the Resources Directorate should be included and that contractors should not be included.
- vi) Members felt that a mechanism for capturing the views of parents, young people and residents was needed and it was to be included in the terms of reference.
- vii) It was confirmed that some of the fields in the Self-Assessment form would be prepopulated before they went out to schools.
- viii) Members were reassured that parents concerns around schools were taken seriously by governing bodies and welcomed and that parents and residents in Rutland did not have to raise a formal complaint to ensure that their complaint was heard.
- ix) Members were keen that Local Authority, as part of its IT review, took account of the data created by the Self-Assessment process and ensured that it was published in a format accessible to stakeholders.
- x) Members asked for Special Educational Needs (SEN) data to be presented as a percentage if possible taking into account the views of SEND Reform.
- xi) With regards to the School Performance data Members would wish to see data by major categories eg. Free School Meals. Members also wanted comparative data on statistical neighbours. Members were reassured that this type of data would be presented.
- xii) Members asked that the role of SACRE featured more strongly in the strategy.
- xiii) Members felt that Pupil Place Planning data needed to be included in the performance data as there were three armed forces schools in Rutland.
- xiv) Members requested that the terminology around school performance use only the new Ofsted terminology and not mix the old with the new.
- xv) Members were concerned that the priorities listed in Appendix 1 were all stated as 'high' and that some further specific prioritisation was needed.

AGREED:

- 1) The panel noted the report
- 2) The panel agreed to revisit the new team structure in a year's time to see whether the level of management proposed remained necessary.

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8.45pm Mr Garcia left the meeting and did not return.

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133 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Report No. 138/2014 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 report to the panel on the Council's Performance for the fourth quarter of 2013/14 and the year to date.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members agreed with the Chair that the performance report – Creating a brighter for all – was a useful report to receive regularly.
- ii) The number of referrals of domestic abused detailed on the second table in Appendix C referred to the total number per quarter.
- iii) Of the children in care the large percentage (20%) of minority ethnic groups referred to one family only.

AGREED:

That the contents of the report noted the overall position in relation to performance for the year 2013/14.

134 QUARTER 4 FINANCIAL MONITORING & DRAFT FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2013-14

Report No. 133/2014 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 inform Panel of the draft outturn figures (subject to audit) for the financial year 2013/14 and provide an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members asked for clarification around whether the position between quarter 4 and budget was the number of pupils or schools that the pupils went to. (line 5377 pg. 28, SEN Transport). The Interim Director for Services for People, Mrs Rhodes-White, agreed to respond in writing to the panel.
- ii) It was confirmed that the underspend in Adoptions including the Adoption Reform Grant (£81K) was ring fenced and will be carried forward.
- iii) Members were reassured that the duties of the SEN Reform Grant project officer post had been covered by an interim project officer. (line 5603 pg. 26)
- iv) Members were concerned that North Luffenham Pre School had no budget attached and overspent again. Members requested wording in the comments section of the table as there was no approved budget. (line 5535 pg. 26)
- v) Members requested clarification on what North Luffenham DCB stood for (line 5533 pg. 26)
- vi) Members asked for clarification on whether anything had been spent on Governor Training (line 5325) pg. 29. The Interim Director for Services for People, Mrs Rhodes-White, agreed to respond in writing to the panel.
- vii) Members asked for confirmation that the Looked After Children budget (line 4210 pg. 31) would be built into the following year's budget. Mrs Rhodes-White agreed to confirm in writing.
- viii) Mrs Rhodes-White agreed to confirm if the Obesity programmes budget (line 5603, pg. 26) had stayed the same or increased.

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 133/2014 be noted.

135 FORWARD PLAN AND PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

The Forward Plan and draft programme of meetings for the Children Scrutiny Panel was considered by the panel.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The draft programme of meetings listed items that still needed to be included.
- ii) The Policy and Crime Commissioner did not need to be considered by the panel
- iii) Members felt that Youth Service needed to be added to programme of meetings
- iv) Members felt that Nursery Care and cost to provide for specialist groups needed to be added to the programme of meetings.

AGREED:

- 1) That that a review of children's health needed to be discussed in more detail between the Chair, Miss Waller and Mrs Rhodes-White who would then report back to the panel what areas need to be added to the programme of meetings
- 2) That the review of the work of the Safeguarding Board be added to the programme of meetings.
- 3) That the review of fostering and adoption be added to the programme of meetings.
- 4) That CAMHS and the Tier 3 review be added to the programme of meetings.

136 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair, Miss Waller, read out the reply letter that had been received from the DfE on concerns around Harrington School.

An update on Ryhall School was received. Members were informed that the school still remained in special measures but that feedback was positive and that the school would move out of special measures when sponsored in October. A new acting Head would be in place in September and a full governing body would be informed in the new term with a new Head Teacher to follow.

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9.25pm Mr Walters left the meeting and did not return.

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137 ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S REPORT

Report No. 146/2014 from the Director of People was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report the purpose of which was to provide an analysis of the work undertaken within children's services to safeguard children in Rutland.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members were reassured that wherever possible attempts were made to reconcile child asylum seekers with their parents / family if it was in the child's best interest. All cases were looked at on an individual basis.
- ii) Taking children into care as an option was only an option as a last resort.
- iii) Children that are taken into care but are too young to read experienced creative ways that trained staff communicated with them ranging from play to photobooks.
- iv) Members reiterated its desire to input to the CAMHS Tier 3 Review highlighted in 3.1.3
- v) Members were concerned that the timeliness of social worker reports, an action from the previous year, was still an issue. The IT software being used was having some changes made to enable staff to use it more effectively. Members requested an update on this in 6 months' time.
- vi) Members were concerned about the lack of engagement of the Police and GPs in review meetings. Portfolio holders were asked to support this.
- vii) The panel agreed that the Authority's position the current year was an improvement on the previous year and that Officers should be commended,

AGREED:

That the contents of Report 146/2014 be noted.

138 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 31 July 2014 – Children's Scrutiny

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.47pm.

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