

Appendix 5 Key Support Roles for School Improvement

The Local Authority

The vision for Learning and Skills Services is set out in the context of the County Council's Strategic Aims and Objectives and is based on a clear understanding of current school performance and local development needs, and identifies the priorities and targets that need to be achieved in order to fulfil this vision.

The People Directorate of Rutland County Council

Learning and Skills Service is part of the People Directorate of Rutland County Council and whilst many staff in the Learning and Skills Service provide support to children and young people, the role of the service in terms of school improvement is to work directly with leadership, teaching and support staff and children in schools to secure school effectiveness and continuous improvement. The team also supports professional development work, brokering of services for schools and information management.

The roles within the Rutland County Council Learning and Skills Services Team in 2014-15 that work with Schools are:

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| ▪ Early Years Adviser | Primary Schools (including Independent Schools) |
| ▪ Primary School Officers | Primary Schools |
| ▪ Secondary Consultancy | Secondary Schools |
| ▪ Admissions | All Schools |
| ▪ Head of Learning and Skills | All Schools |

Note: Support is also available from:

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| Head of Service SEN/Inclusion | All Schools |
| Head of Vulnerable Children | All Schools |
| Senior Accountant, People | All Schools |
| Schools' Forum | All Schools |
| Partnership Board | All Schools |

The Role of School Officers

The role of school officers within the Rutland County Council Learning and Skills Service Team is central to the support provided to schools and has the responsibility of championing the right of all learners to high quality education and to support and challenge schools to take responsibility for the continuous improvement of their school.

The school officers provide an important service to Rutland schools having an extensive local knowledge of schools within the county. Additionally, a significant aspect of the effectiveness of the team stems from the fact that they also have good networks and working relationships with key professional organisations and specialists both locally and nationally.

The School Officer role within the Learning and Skills Service team is:

- To provide professional advice to schools, and community/school groups;
- To monitor and support the improvement of learning and achievement in schools whose performance causes concern through work with senior and middle leadership in schools and local authority colleagues;
- To secure high quality leadership and highly effective school improvement processes;
- To support Governing Bodies in the appointment of headteachers through recruitment or the facilitation of other collaborative arrangements;
- To hold maintained schools effectively to account for their outcomes and develop their school improvement processes;
- To work in partnership with Academies on school improvement;
- To support schools to review and refine their provision to meet the diverse and changing needs of their learners;
- To trigger and co-ordinate intervention in maintained schools to secure rapidly improved performance where elements such as teaching, learning, leadership and safeguarding give cause for concern;
- To promote, facilitate and broker partnerships and school-to-school development and collaboration as a means of securing continuing and sustainable improvement;
- To advise on school initiatives such as federations, amalgamations, facility development and school design as appropriate.