



# 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 11 September 2014**

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

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr P Goringe  
Miss A Loomes  
Mr A Menzies

<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>	Mrs J Difolco	Head of Service – Stronger Communities
	Mr K Garcia	Head of Learning and Skills
	Miss D Greaves	Finance Manager – Accounting
	Mr M Naylor	Head of Delivery (Ageing Well)
	Dr T O'Neill	Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive
	Ms K Bansal	Corporate Support Officer
	Miss M Gamston	Corporate Support Officer

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People  
Mrs C Rowbotham Headteacher, Great Casterton C of E Primary School  
Reverend J Saunders Chair of Governors, Great Casterton C of E Primary School

**APOLOGIES:** Ms P Rubinstein, Mr G Conde, Mr J T Dale, Ms S Gullan-Whur

## **297 RECORD OF MEETING**

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 31 July 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **298 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

## **299 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

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

## **300 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

### **301 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

### **302 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.

### **303 OFSTED REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF GREAT CASTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Report No. 200/2014 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 report relating to Great Casterton Primary School and welcomed Mrs Rowbotham and the Reverend Saunders.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That the grade outcome was "Requires Improvement" in July 2014;
- ii) The Authority was working with the school with the aim to take the school to "Good" in a short period;
- iii) Arrangements already in place to improve Year 6 teaching and a more experienced teacher was now in post;
- iv) Governors having re-evaluated strengths and weaknesses had set up a standards committee and were meeting regularly with the Headteacher and senior management team to monitor the situation;
- v) Governors had increased their monitoring and visits;
- vi) That the Board of Governors was not the same as in place at the time of the inspection with one vacancy having been filled and one to fill;
- vii) An external review of Governors had been supported by Rutland County Council;
- viii) That it was unrealistic to expect teachers to be statisticians;
- ix) The inspection report stated 'a significant minority of parents feel that leaders do not listen to their views about the school', concern expressed about whether it is a matter of individual or generic concern regarding teaching in year group. The Portfolio Holder was requested to write to Ofsted requesting a clearer explanation;
- x) A parent survey had been undertaken in March 2014 where concerns had been dealt with on a personal level and discussed with the governing body;
- xi) Focus groups for the whole school were in place prioritising mathematics;
- xii) Collaboration with other schools through the Rutland Teaching Alliance and close relationships with other headteachers;
- xiii) When asked whether the Local Authority had done enough to support the development of subject leaders, Mrs Rowbotham responded that there was more that the Authority could be doing. The Chairman, Miss Waller, undertook to pass this comment onto Cabinet;
- xiv) Members were advised that overall the Authority had focussed on individual schools over the last 2 to 3 years, now looking to monitor school performance across the county. The Learning and Skills Strategy will look at performance to inform where to prioritise resources and support response; the Authority would also use the information to work closely with individual schools, to help schools link with other schools and access the Rutland Teaching Alliance.

**AGREED:**

That the content of Report No. 200/2014 be noted.

That the Portfolio Holder for Children should write to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools to request information about how effective a tool "parent view" is at providing a judgement of the views of parents on their schools compared with the previous method used by OFSTED for ascertaining the parental perspective.

**304 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15 QUARTER 1**

Report No. 173/2014 from the Director of Resources was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report the purpose to which was to inform Cabinet on how the Council was performing against its revenue and capital budgets and report a forecast year end outturn position as at the 30 June 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That definitions were to be reworded for future reports;
- ii) That the Revised Budget figure was the anticipated year end figure;
- iii) That work was being undertaken on volatile areas within the budget.

**305 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 1 2014/15**

Report No. 186/2014 from the Chief Executive was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to report to Cabinet on the Council's Performance for the first quarter of 2014/15.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) In response to concerns raised Members were advised that the Authority would be targeting the proportion of children in Reception classified as overweight and obese;
- ii) That for future meetings Members would be provided with a management summary highlighting areas of concern.

**AGREED:**

That for future meetings Members would be provided with a management summary highlighting areas of concern.

**306 RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICE**

Report No. 194/2014 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 update as requested for the Children's Scrutiny Panel for noting following the completion of the review of the Youth Service.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members were informed that Jules was not closing, services would continue to be provided at Pinewood;
- ii) That Council in 2013 had made the decision to target vulnerable people and include in universal services. That capacity was to be developed was included in the People First review;
- iii) The continuation of policies that had worked in the villages;
- iv) That the council had been more involved in Whissendine and Ketton as there had been specific issues;
- v) That gaps in service were likely to be most prevalent in Oakham and Uppingham;
- vi) That there was evidence that current provision in Oakham was not seen as meeting needs;
- vii) That the review concluded in July 2013 took into consideration:
  - a) Service provision, geographically
  - b) Services for children and young people across the county
- viii) Focus on working with local community and voluntary sector to establish ongoing provision;
- ix) Support expressed for the policy of focussing on those identified as vulnerable and most in need;
- x) That the data referred to in paragraph 5.7 of Report No. 194/2014 was the most recent validated data. The data in the Sports Structures Report 2013 had not been validated at the time of writing the report;
- xi) Could attendance be further increased by rebranding Jules following the move to new premises;
- xii) Concern expressed that the increase in numbers attending Jules could be due to other closures in projects;
- xiii) That Members required precise information on attendance to scrutinise. This would inform Members of who attended where and the length of time attending;
- xiv) That there was a large amount of provision for youth in Rutland. Officers had been tasked to improve information source and to consider transport issues with attending events and clubs;
- xv) That the group for disabled young people had moved to a fortnightly meeting;
- xvi) That 80% of attendees at universal services were targeted;
- xvii) That four projects were to be kept open. It was proposed that savings would be used to provide training;
- xviii) That the purpose built mobile unit could accommodate ten young people;
- xix) Disappointment expressed that the report did not set out the strategy for Rutland young people;
- xx) A detailed report on services provided was requested for February 2015.

**AGREED:**

That a detailed report on services provided would be taken at the February 2015 meeting of this Panel.

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The Chairman advised Members that Mrs Difolco was leaving the Authority and wished her well in her new role at Leicester City Council.

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**307 IMPLEMENTING THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS UNDER THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT 2014**

Report No. 191/2014 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 Rutland's progress against the reforms to the provision of services for children and young people with special

educational needs and disability (SEND) and the approach taken locally to develop and implement the reforms.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That the law had been reformed and from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 no new assessment for Statements or Learning Difficulty Assessment would be offered by local authorities;
- ii) That the key changes to the Act were listed in paragraph 3.2 of Report No. 191/2014;
- iii) That Rutland had already implemented a new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (Appendix 1 to Report No. 191/2014);
- iv) That the EHCP replaced the Statement of Educational Needs (SEN);
- v) Concern raised regarding children not previously statemented might not be captured. Members were advised that support could be offered via School Action and School Action Plus;
- vi) That there was a need to look at capacity within Rutland and the use of the Pupil Premium Grant;
- vii) That strategies could be reviewed;
- viii) SEND reforms and EHCP would provide an individualised medium to long term service;
- ix) Members were advised that the Plan was a work in progress with the Authority working on Best Practice and consulting with Parent/Carer Voice and trailblazers.

**AGREED:**

That the content of Report No. 191/2014 be noted.

**308 FORWARD PLAN**

Members were advised that Youth Scoping would be added to the forward plan for this Panel (November) and that the LSCB Annual Report and 2015/16 Business for Adults and Children was to be taken to the People (Adult and Health) Scrutiny Panel on 18 December 2014.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, advised that a multi school/governor seminar on safeguarding was to be held in the near future, date to be advised.

**309 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**310 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 13 November 2014

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.32pm.**

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