



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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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 13 November 2014**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr S Asplin
Mrs C Cartwright
Mr R Clifton
Mr G Conde
Mr J M Lammie
Mr N M Wainwright

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Miss A Loomes
Mr A Menzies
Ms S Gullan-Whur

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Dr T O'Neill	Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive
	Mr S Butterworth	Deputy Director for People
	Mr A Chowdhury	Head of Service - Early Intervention
	Mr K Garcia	Head of Learning and Skills
	Miss D Greaves	Finance Manager - Accounting
	Mr C Pennington	Head of Service – Social Care
	Miss S Croad	Corporate Support Officer
	Mr A Green	Corporate Support Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Bool
Mr C Smith
Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Vice Principle for Casterton Business and Enterprise College

APOLOGIES: Mr P Goringe, Mr A Walters

465 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 11 September 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

466 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr S Asplin	Items 9 and 13	Employed by Whissendine Primary School.
Mr R Clifton	Item 13	Works for a trust that sponsors academies in the local area.

467 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

468 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

469 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

470 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.

471 PROVISIONAL KEY STAGE 2 ATTAINMENT RESULTS FROM RUTLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KS5 ASSTAINMENT RESULTS FROM RUTLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Report No. 191/2014 from the Director for People was received.

Mr Smith spoke to the panel regarding Key Stage 5 Attainment Outcomes for 2014 for Rutland County College and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report the purpose of which was to present information on Key Stage 2 Attainment Outcomes for 2014 for Rutland Primary Schools and Rutland County College

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That heading 4.1 on page 60 mentioned that 80 candidates from Rutland had completed A levels in 2014. It was noted that paragraph 4.2 was not technically correct due to a number of Rutland candidates achieving A levels at other schools;
- ii) That Rutland County College had students attending from a variety of areas with the capacity coming from Uppingham;
- iii) That most students coming to Rutland County College had a below national average entry level and it was pleasing to see the progress made;
- iv) That 100% of children attending Rutland County College achieved at least 1 A* - E A level and 1 Vocational qualification;
- v) 31% of leavers have progressed through to a Russell or 1994 Group University.
- vi) As of September 2015 colleges will not have to put students through AS levels.
- vii) Those students who achieved 5 grade B's in G.C.S.E. would be able to study 4 A levels. This would come in to affect next year;
- viii) That the number of hours with teacher learning had been decreased due to post 15 funding being cut;
- ix) Despite the rising number of entrants the average class size is 12 however private study space is a problem as the college expects students to stay on site all day;
- x) Pre-16 students previously attended 2 weeks work experience however this had been abolished in favour of attending work experience Post-16. Vocational courses provide 5 weeks work experience and higher level vocational students have 50 hours of work experience to complete a year;

- xi) The Key Stage 2 figures are headline figures and would be validated by February. The validated figures would be brought before the panel;
- xii) That an Education Performance Board had been set up and the first meeting took place on Wednesday 12th November.

AGREED:

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

472 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15 QUARTER 1

Report No. 245/2014 from the Director for Resources was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool, introduced the report the purpose of 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 September 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That finance figures were volatile in quarter 1 and quarter 2;
- ii) That the People Directorate were in a good position and on track with the figures budgeted;
- iii) There was an underspend on recruitment for the directorate although there was an overspend on the redundancy figure;
- iv) Members felt that the Council needed to be better at predicting budgets and the phrase “demand led” had been used too often;
- v) There is underway a review of SEN Transport costs.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 245/2014 be noted;
- ii. The chair will feedback to Cabinet the panel’s concerns about “demand led” budgets and SEN Transport.

473 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 2 2014/15

Report No. 239/2014 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 second quarter of 2014/15.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) On page 57 there are 2.1% of 16 – 18 year olds with no information in regards to education, employment or training (‘Not Knowns’). These people could be NEET which means that the target could be missed.

AGREED:

- i. That the contents of Report No. 239/2014 be noted;
- ii. Further information will be brought to future panel meetings regarding what happens to young people after they are 18 years of age.

474 SAFEGUARDING IN SCHOOLS

Report No. 252/2014 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 background information on the context and current position regarding Safeguarding in Schools.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- i) A statutory report would be brought to a future Scrutiny panel;
- ii) A virtual school had been set up as it was a statutory requirement for the local authority;
- iii) The locally maintained schools had an obligation to respond to the Annual Safeguarding in Schools Compliance Survey but the academies did not. There were three schools who did not respond;
- iv) Members need to be aware that the Local Safeguarding Children Board covers all of Rutland children;
- v) There was a document titled 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' that the Department for Education sent to every school.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 252/2014 be noted.

475 ADOLESCENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS – OFFICER RESPONSE

Report No. 250/2014 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 the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel of the officer response to the Adolescent Task and Finish Group recommendations.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) There had been a complicated background to the report;
- ii) There were named staff linked to each school in order to build communication links;
- iii) There had been an increase in CAF activity;
- iv) It had been identified that children at Kendrew Barracks were better supported than children at St George's Barracks;
- v) The identification of the relevant officer at the barracks could be difficult;
- vi) There was a need for early intervention as it was difficult to know whether a child was being adolescent or whether there was a deeper problem.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 250/2014 be noted.
- ii. Mr Conde meets with Mr Chowdhury to discuss the matter in more depth.

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Ms Gullan-Whur left the meeting and did not return 9.25pm

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476 RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL FOSTERING REPORT

Report No. 240/2014 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 update the panel members on the annual activity of the fostering service during 2013/14.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) There were future plans for the fostering service including the staying put scheme, a better business model and keep carers;
- ii) With regards to the Staying Put Scheme the money in government grants did not cover costs but was much better for the child;
- iii) There was a regional approach to fostering however this model may not be ideal for Rutland;
- iv) In some cases the Council had to help the children return to their parents. A better business model was required to recoup the costs when a non-Rutland foster child is placed in Rutland.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 240/2014 be noted.

477 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Report No. 246/2014 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 background information on the context and current position regarding the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The panel had requested the strategy to be brought to Scrutiny before it was presented to Cabinet as the panel wanted to have an input into the strategy before it was set in stone;
- ii) The panel were interested in providing a good scheme and not just to satisfy OFSTED;
- iii) There were interests in the participation strategy but it will not be perfect from day one;
- iv) Going into an inspection without a document would be unwise.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 246/2014 be noted;
- ii. Once a document is in place it will be distributed to panel members.

478 RUTLAND YOUTH SERVICES SCOPING

Report No. 257/2014 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 members with a proposal for the scoping exercise into youth provision across Rutland as requested by members at the Scrutiny Panel on 18 September 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That consideration should be given to other services that were not just council led but voluntary led as well;
- ii) It was requested that the need to get an idea of how many people who were not engaging was required;

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During the consideration of Item 14 and in accordance with Procedure Rule 119, the Scrutiny Panel AGREED to extend the finish time for the meeting to 10.15pm.

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- iii) There was a considerable cost associated with providing services in villages and as a result the Council needed to do more for less;
- iv) That some of the organisations e.g. churches, voluntary organisations in the local area were not known of. Scoping needed to say what was out there.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 257/2014 be noted;
- ii. The People (Children) Scrutiny Panel to be provided with the data for summer activity on take up and cost.

479 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN 2014/15

Members were advised that Children's Health - Obesity item will come to a future People (Children) Scrutiny Panel.

480 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

481 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

The Thursday 8 January 2015 meeting has been postponed until Thursday 22 January.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:10pm

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