



# Rutland County Council

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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 22 January 2015**

**PRESENT:** Miss G Waller (Chair)  
Mrs C Cartwright  
Mr R Clifton  
Mr C Conde  
Mr J Lammie  
Mr J Munton  
Mr A Walters

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr P Goringe  
Ms S Gullan-Whur  
Mr A Tindel

<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>	Mr T O'Neill	Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive Officer
	Mr K Garcia	Interim Head of Service - Lifelong Learning
	Mr A Green	Corporate Support Officer

<b>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr K Bool	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
	Mr J Dale	
	Mrs V Crosher	Principle for Casterton Business and Enterprise College
	Mr C Smith	Vice Principle for Casterton Business and Enterprise College

**APOLOGIES** Mr S Asplin, Mr M E Baines, Mr A Menzies, Mr N Wainwright

The Chair read an email received from Miss A Loomes. It read that Kirah Gordon Noa Rogers was new Youth Representatives on the panel.

The Chair introduced Mr A Tindell as a new member of the panel.

## **650 RECORD OF MEETING**

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 13 November 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **651 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr A Tindell

Item 7

Deputy Chair of  
Governors at CBEC.

**652 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

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

**653 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

**654 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

**655 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.

**656 OFSTED REPORT: CASTERTON BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE (CBEC)**

Report No. 23/2015 from the Director for People was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mr Bool introduced the report which provided an overview of the Ofsted Inspection at CBEC. The Interim Head – Lifelong Learning, Mr Garcia reminded the panel that the inspection was carried out under the new guidelines. Mrs Crosher and Mr Smith spoke to the panel about CBEC's Ofsted Inspection

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7.05pm Ms Gullan-Whur joined the meeting

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During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) The cohort that came to CBEC from Lincolnshire, where a grammar school selection process took place, left CBEC with fewer higher ability pupils.
- ii) CBEC's intake had a large group of middle ability children.
- iii) The sixth form was inspected in November. The exam results were not validated until January so inspectors were not able to refer to them in the report.
- iv) The attendance rate at the sixth form was 91%.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) CBEC had done well in speaking and listening but there was concern that CBEC had focused on statutory tasks only although the panel were assured that CBEC worked hard in providing a good overall education.

- ii) There was also concern that in English Literature, grammar took a lower emphasis however the panel were told that speaking and listening had not been focused on at a disadvantage to other areas.
- iii) The panel felt that Mrs Crosher had spent the time explaining why the report was bad as opposed to explaining how CBEC would address the problems however it was explained that the curriculum around reading and writing would be reemphasised.
- iv) Although the college been busy converting to an academy and taking on the sixth form the leadership team was innovative and enterprising.
- v) Teaching was at a high standard but it had to align with overall grades. Regarding the marking of homework there had been an increase in the amount of scrutiny work for checking homework. In addition a new marking system called Snails had been introduced.
- vi) The panel asked does the label 'middle ability' lowered expectations for students. Mr Smith explained that the Department for Education determined the abilities and the mantra of the school was that ability is not fixed.
- vii) Concern was raised that CBEC was not engaging enough with the primary feeder schools to ensure abilities were raised.
- viii) CBEC was confident that standards would improve and that the teaching was very good including for Maths and the data supported this.
- ix) Around 65-75% of CBEC's cohort came from Lincolnshire. Mrs Crosher attended all feeder schools around October each year. However stronger collaboration only happened at Ryhall and did not happen at other schools as the schools were independent of the local authority.
- x) Members were advised that screening for dyslexic and dyspraxic children did occur but parents and primary schools also highlighted the conditions proactively.

#### **AGREED:**

- i. That the content of Report No. 23/2015 be noted.
- ii. The following motion was passed '*This Scrutiny panel recommends that advice and support is given to Rutland primary and secondary schools to encourage better interschool communication in order to achieve a more standardised better level of academic achievement prior to year 7.*' The chair would refer the motion to Cabinet.

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8.24 pm Mr Bool and Mr Walters left the meeting

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#### **657 RYHALL RE ACADEMY: UPDATE**

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8.25 pm Mr Bool rejoined the meeting

8.26pm Mr Walters rejoined the meeting

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A verbal update from the Director for People was received.

Mr Garcia informed the panel that Ryhall Primary School converted to an academy on 1 October 2014. The conversion was sponsored by the Church of

England Peterborough Diocese. Ryhall warranted a sustained programme of support after they came out of special measures which happened in the summer of 2014. CBEC was a partner and they were providing support to Ryhall. CBEC expressed as desire to take on leadership but the Diocese had maintained control.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) CBEC would be reimbursed all of their costs.

**AGREED:**

- i. That the verbal update be noted.

**658 KEY STAGE 2: UPDATE REPORT FOR RUTLAND SCHOOLS**

Report No. 24/2015 from the Director of People was received.

Mr Garcia introduced the report the purpose of which was to present information on Key Stage 2 Attainment and Progress Outcomes for 2014 for Rutland Primary Schools.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) With regards to phonics Ryhall was the only school where 100% of the children were operating at the required level.
- ii) Rutland was performing highly between 2008 and 2012 with Rutland above the national average. In 2013 there was a drop of 10% which put Rutland below national average. The drop was caused by maths, writing and general standards of teaching.
- iii) In 2014 KS1 was above the national average however KS2 was below national average.
- iv) Level 4s in Rutland were below the national average. The Level 5s in Rutland were ahead of the national average.
- v) The performance of girls in Maths was a priority.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The Panel was advised that officers needed to assess what overall resources were available not just those available from the Council.
- ii) Church of England Diocese saw itself as working in partnership with the Local Authority.
- iii) The panel were advised that the response from Head Teachers had been very good and that all parties were working on what had caused the drop.
- iv) There was concern that panel had been given data that had not been double checked as appendix A showed St Nicholas, St Mary and Brooke Hill as above national average but they should be shown as between floor and national level.
- v) It was noted that converting the school to an Academy was considered to bring immediate improvements although improving schools was the result of the leadership of the school.
- vi) The Panel was advised that in support of governors, a conference was held at Barnsdale and there was to be a training session for governors.

- vii) The Panel was assured that prioritising had been made following Ofsted reports and officers were working hard on improving the quality of all schools.
- viii) The Panel supported the changes and all the Panel wanted what was best for the children.
- ix) The agenda for 26 February People (Children) Scrutiny Panel would contain a quarterly report of the Performance Board.

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9.44pm Mr Dale left the meeting and did not return

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- x) The Panel was told that performance data often reflected national and not local results.

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During the consideration of Item 3 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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#### **AGREED:**

- i. That the content of Report No. 24/2015 be noted.

#### **659 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION**

Report No. 25/2015 from the Director of People was received.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) The report would be revisited at the next panel meeting.

#### **AGREED:**

- i. The Panel noted the report was to return to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel agenda for 26 February 2015.

#### **660 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN 2014/15**

Members noted the forward plan.

#### **661 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.

#### **662 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 26th February 2015 at 7pm.

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.02pm.**

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