



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 26 February 2015**

PRESENT: Miss G Waller (Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mr R Clifton
Mr J Lammie
Mr J Munton
Mr A Walters

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr P Goringe
Mr A Menzies
Mr A Tindall
Miss K Gordon

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Dr T O'Neill	Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive Officer
	Mr P Phillipson	Director for Places (Development and Economy)
	Mr K Garcia	Interim Head of Service – Learning and Skills
	Mrs A Coyle	Interim Head of Service Improvement
	Ms D Greaves	Accountant
	Miss J Narey	Corporate Support Officer
	Mrs R Hynds	Administrative Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T King Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance

APOLOGIES Mr S Asplin, Mr K Bool, Mrs C Cartwright, Mr C Conde, Mr N Wainwright, Ms S Gullan-Whur

The Chair introduced Miss K Gordon as the new Youth Representative on the panel.

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7.01pm Mr A Tindall joined the meeting
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786 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 22 January 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

787 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

788 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

789 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

790 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

791 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.

792 KEY STAGE 4 REPORTS

The Chair requested that Item 11 on the Agenda was discussed first. A presentation from the Interim Head of Service – Learning and Skills was received.

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7.15pm Mr M E Baines joined the meeting

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During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) Key Stage 4 results were in line with national performance.
- ii) Significant difference between highest and lowest performing schools.
- iii) Significant underperformance of disadvantaged and Free School Meal (FSM) pupils.
- iv) Continued improvement of SEN pupils required.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Validated data was not received until February.
- ii) Rutland was in discussion with Leicester regarding the exchange of best practice.
- iii) Improving data analysis to include figures of children not eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).
- iv) The panel requested that the data was compared against Rutland's statistical neighbours.

- v) Work has started with schools and the Rutland Teaching Alliance. The Local Authority was focussed on what must be done.

AGREED:

- i) That the Panel noted the content of the presentation.
- ii) Key Stage 5 data to be added to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel agenda for 24 April 2015.
- iii) Details of the Local Authority's action plan to be distributed to panel members.
- iv) Key Stage 4 Religious Education performance figures to be sent to Mr A Menzies.

793 LEARNING AND SKILLS PERFORMANCE BOARD: UPDATE

The Chair requested that Item 12 on the Agenda was discussed next. A verbal update from the Director for People was received and the following documents were distributed:

- i) RCC School Performance Data Dashboard.
- ii) Dashboard – Performance of Pupil Groups.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The data showed encouraging signs of improvement.
- ii) Schools would share data analysis and tracking skills through the Education Performance Board.
- iii) The Governors' Forum had been disbanded. Discussions were ongoing to devise a model to involve and support Governors. Governors were 'key' in challenging a school's leadership team.

AGREED:

- i) That the Panel noted the content of the verbal update.
- ii) The Learning and Skills Performance Board Quarterly report, including details of each school's action plan, would be added to the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel agenda for 24 April 2015.
- iii) The membership details of the Education Performance Board would be distributed to the Panel.
- iv) The Chair would feedback to Cabinet the panel's request to reform the Governors' Forum.

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8.30pm Mr K Garcia left the meeting

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The Chair explained to the Panel that the Pupil Place Planning presentation included exempt information. It was recommended that the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure Rule 239, as the item of business was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph

3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. The Panel AGREED to move into exempt session to enable detailed discussion of the presentation. The Panel AGREED that Miss K Gordon, Youth Representative, could stay but would not be able to vote.

794 PUPIL PLACE PLANNING

Mr T King, Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance introduced a verbal update from Mr P Phillipson, Director for Places (Development and Economy).

During discussion the following points were raised:

- i) Increasing demand for school places in Oakham and Uppingham had led to a shortage of school places.
- ii) Surplus school places were located in the eastern part of the county. Transferring pupils to areas of surplus would be expensive and impractical.
- iii) The Local Authority must expand and/or build new schools to provide sufficient school places in the areas needed.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Funding to the Council and/or Academy Schools was available from Central Government or through the S106 process. Both funding streams had different criteria that must be met.
- ii) Long-term capacity in schools must be developed.
- iii) The Local Authority's Admission Policy including catchment areas, may need to be reviewed.

AGREED:

- i) That the Panel noted the content of the verbal update.

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9.24pm Mr King and Mr Phillipson left the meeting.
The Panel AGREED to move back into public session.

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795 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION

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

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Vacancies would be advertised in the next three weeks to increase the leadership team's capacity.
- ii) A new database would be procured to improve the quality of management information.
- iii) The Corporate Parenting Board would be re-launched.

AGREED:

- i) The Panel noted the progress on the service improvement programme within the report.
- ii) The Panel supported the areas of particular focus within the report.
- iii) Details of the Corporate Parenting Board to be distributed to the Panel.

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In accordance with Procedure Rule 119, the Panel AGREED to extend the finish time for the meeting to 10.15pm.

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796 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/2015 Q3

Report No. 40/2015 from the Director of Resources was received and noted.

797 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 3 2014/2015

Report No. 41/2015 from the Director of Resources was received and noted.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- i) All of the reports were on the Council's website.
- ii) Increases in costs had been built-in to next year's budget.
- iii) The finance and performance management reports would be reviewed to make them easier to understand.

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10.06pm Mr King and Mr Phillipson left the meeting.

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798 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN 2014/15

Members noted the forward plan.

799 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

800 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 23rd April 2015 at 7pm

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.09pm.

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