



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 23 April 2015**

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

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr P Goringe
Mr A Tindall
Mr A Menzies

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr T O'Neill Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Fowler Head of Service – Learning and Skills
Mrs R Hynds Corporate Support Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr K Bool Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Dr R Sharif School Improvement Consultant
Ms L Ahyow Specialist Registrar in Public Health LCC
Mr M Sandys Director of Public Health for Leicestershire and Rutland
Mrs S Milner Head teacher- Brooke Hill Academy
Mrs D Sedgwick Head teacher –Leighfield Academy

APOLOGIES Mr M E Baines, Mr N Wainwright, Mr G Conde, Mr P Goringe, Ms S.Gullan – Wuhr

900 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on 26 February 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman. The Chair advised that the order of the agenda would be altered slightly due to the head Teacher of Leighfield being unable to attend before 7.45pm.

901 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

902 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

903 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice were received from Members.

904 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from Members.

905 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.

906 OFSTED REPORT: Brooke Hill Academy

Report No. 86/2015 from the Head Teacher, Sharon Milner was received.

Mr Bool introduced the report which provided an overview of the Ofsted Inspection of Brooke Hill Academy. The Head Teacher, Sharon Milner, reminded the panel that the inspection was carried out under the new guidelines.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i. Could have had outstanding rating, but must achieve a 'good' in safeguarding and this would require improvements;
- ii. The school will be able to share action plans with other school and this was reflected in the grading;
- iii. The report was commended and the issue of the new expansion plans and how the school will get back in focus was raised. This would be a good opportunity to work with parents and governors;
- iv. Concern was expressed over the first point as to not being outstanding regarding the marking policy. The Panel was advised that marking of all work is done. Unfortunately the small part that Ofsted picked up was being covered by a new teacher that was unaware of the school's marking policy;
- v. The new curriculum would include topics to improve children's' understanding of how other cultures and religions work and
- vi. There was a query regarding the report on religion and other cultures, as Ofsted seemed to contradict themselves over British values. Sharon Milner explained that the school offers extra pastoral care for the children so that they are more aware of other cultures.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The school was marked under new criteria;

- ii) There had been a slight dip in results last year but this was a nationwide trend;
- iii) There was ambition to get back to outstanding under the new inspection regime. The school is oversubscribed for September;
- iv) The School Action Plan was put into place the very next day;
- v) A three year plan and a new leadership structure had been put in place. Head of School now in place;
- vi) Good report, but no outstanding ratings anywhere. The Head Teacher explained that the data determined that the school was good and that the school was also supporting another school under a federation arrangement and
- vii) The panel pointed out that Ofsted's wording in the past had been questioned and thanked and congratulated the Head Teacher for her report.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 86/2015 be noted.
- ii. That the verbal update is noted.

907 FUNDING AND PROVISION FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

Report No. 88/2015 from the Director of People was received.

Mr Bool introduced the report the purpose of which was to present a summary of the funding and provision in Rutland for education of 2 Year Olds.

Mark Fowler, Head of Learning and Skills introduced himself to the panel and explained that up until April, the funding would be actual figures. Certain amount comes from the government, RCC provide up to £5.10 per child as a local authority.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) It was confirmed that Quality assurance is carried out by RCC personnel and this team has confirmed that the standard provision is in place;
- ii) Work was required in order to identify children that needed support when no transport provision is available;
- iii) The panel would prefer to have specific data and not percentages in any future reports and
- iv) An update regarding page 88 was requested from the Director of People.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Officers would value input from the panel with views on RCC reports back to them;
- ii) No subsidies have been given yet and
- iii) Geographical accessibility. Good for rural residents to know where the nearest provision is. Need this data in the report.

AGREED:

- i. That the content of Report No. 88/2015 be noted.

908 REVIEW OF CHILD HEALTH

Report No. 89/2015 from the Director of People was received.

The Chair explained the reason the report was being brought to this panel and that it was felt that the issue had not being addressed enough by the Adult Panel. The purpose of the report was to provide the committee with an overview of child health in Rutland and an update on public health activity against priorities. Work was ongoing to produce the 2015 JSNA, this interim report reflected that child health was a priority.

Mr Bool introduced Mike Sandys and Lauren Ahyow from Leicestershire County Council Public Health.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) The Public Health Officer for Leicestershire and Rutland gave an overview of health views across a person's lifespan;
- ii) Rutland results were very good;
- iii) Poor oral results in children under 5s ;
- iv) Obesity levels were below the national average;
- v) Rutland's poverty is lower than the national average and its effects towards poor health;
- vi) Mike Sandys explained that the CAMHS service provision is slightly beyond child health's area and he will bring back more information on CAMHS at a future meeting;
- vii) Investment and work towards better care in dental health of children was welcomed and
- viii) The question was raised regarding changing the figures to reflect under 16's rather than under 18's.

During the discussion the following points were noted

- i) Mike Sandys explained that Appendix 1 in the report meant that it had a statistical significance in the report as the figures were correct at the time of the report;
- ii) It was difficult to get access into academies to initiate any obesity plan and
- iii) It had been difficult in the past to get sex education into some academies. This can be difficult as it raises some concerns from Catholic Schools and not enough had been done in the past.

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8.05pm Mrs D. Sedgwick entered the meeting

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- iv) Regarding the schools which will be involved, the programme had been expanded;
- v) The panel requested real numbers and not percentages in the report.
- vi) Child poverty can lead to poor health;
- vii) The number of teenage mothers is low so that the final number cannot be given;
- viii) Further information was requested to find out where CAMHS work with children and capture this data. Encouraged by members wanting to find out more about this;
- ix) Self-harming & bulimia was known by students but not adults;
- x) 50k Social market campaign to be rolled out. The panel asked if this was money well spent. It was explained to the panel that they need to better understand this problem and that it was money well spent. Identifying the profile of the general public regarding their social behaviour gives a better understanding of how to target people;
- xi) The children that were identified with poor dental health were discovered whilst at school when being examined by the visiting dentist;
- xii) The panel suggested renaming the project from a campaign to a research project;
- xiii) As Rutland is small, emotional and behavioural health is high and .
- xiv) The Panel would prefer to have up to date data for future reports that are comparable to statistical neighbours rather than national comparators.

AGREED:

- i) That the content of the Report No. 89/2015 be noted.

909 OFSTED REPORT: Leighfield Academy

Report No. 87/2015 from the Head Teacher, Debbie Sedgwick, was received.

Mr Bool introduced the report which provides an overview of the Ofsted Inspection at Leighfield Academy. The Head Teacher reminded the panel that the inspection was carried out under the new OFSTED guidelines.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) Debbie Sedgwick, the Head Teacher said that the school had good teachers, but that their individual's levels were not secure, and more work would be required to bring them up to the expected standard;
- ii) Outdoor area was not good, security was poor. There was much work to do in this area;
- iii) Priorities included moderating with other schools, communicating with other subject leaders and extra training;
- iv) The children were reported to be reliant on staff with little independence of their own;
- v) Development of team and all staff - Jen Hazell Education Adviser has been supporting them with team building;
- vi) Need to focus on core subjects;

- vii) Year 6 Maths seemed secure, others year groups in maths were not so. English was easier to work with to improve results. Maths attainment has always been more challenging with girls than boys;
- viii) Writing is taught particularly well. Usually in Rutland it is an area of weakness and
- ix) There is a development plan in places to address any weaknesses for future Ofsted inspections.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Debbie Sedgwick expressed how the school is an outward looking school and works well with other schools;
- ii) The school now has more new staff and it a new deputy is in place;
- iii) The schools staff worked together really well. They are all now working toward the same goal;
- iv) The school engages well with other schools and worked together with a sharing of each other's ideas;
- v) Goal posts had shifted since previous Ofsted inspection and unfortunate that 'very good' rating no longer exists;
- vi) Possibility of gaining an outstanding in English and Maths;
- vii) Reported that the school did not promote itself enough;
- viii) Parental expectation was high;
- ix) Now in a federation, this was good to get people working together;
- x) Contacted Infinity regarding Governor courses which have now been set up;
- xi) Debbie Sedgwick offered to help other schools in failing areas;
- xii) Could set up a profile of Rutland Schools that could call upon one another to help in areas not so secure in. RCC could work as a broker to facilitate the flow of information and
- xiii) Strengths should be shared and celebrated.

AGREED:

- i) That the content of Report No. 87/2015 be noted.

910 KEY STAGE 5 REPORT

The Chair suggested that Item 13 was considered next.

Mark Fowler, Head of Learning and Skills introduced Dr Rashida Sharif, School Improvement Consultant, to give a brief verbal overview of the Key Stage 5 Reports. A presentation with Key Stage 5 data was distributed to the Panel.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) KS5 is a very complex field;
- ii) Catmose College is at full capacity;
- iii) The Chair raised the point that the Panel needs to see what happens to the results, even when the students go out of county. It was not easy to track due to data protection issues and more post 16 education facilities becoming academies;

- iv) The Chair raised the question of why Rutland County College did not get good grades. Was it down to less motivated or lower ability students or the teaching?
- v) Concern was raised that Rutland is poor at getting apprenticeship and that pushing students to university seemed to be the trend. Seems to be few links with employers;
- vi) RCC is looking at apprenticeships as a priority.
- vii) The panel suggested that apprenticeships should be a future agenda item for the Panel;
- viii) Could appear that Rutland is not offering a good enough quality of education for post 16 and should question why students go to out of County institutions;
- ix) Harrington School will be aimed at high achievers; this could create an elitist county;
- x) KS5 have a reliable tool of measuring results with the outcome of A 'Level's and GCSE results;
- xi) The focus of this Panel on KS5 provision must be passed on to the new panel after the Election and
- xii) Students were probably not always aware of the options and of those businesses that would take on skilled and unskilled school leavers with a view to train up whilst in the job.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The panel felt that they had not had enough time to digest the information as it was distributed at the meeting and not prior to it. Would prefer to feed back at the next meeting;
- ii) Students now at Catmose who live in Melton would probably go to Brooksby or the colleges on the other side of Melton;
- iii) There have been cuts in the budget for 14-19 year olds, but not for apprenticeships;
- iv) Important to revisit how make improvements could be made. Look at education and employment in Rutland and where to focus attention including how we can help from outside of the classroom;
- v) More careers advice was needed and
- vi) Not clear if funding for 14-19 year olds had fallen.

AGREED:

- i) That the content of the verbal report be noted.

911 EDUCATION PERFORMANCE BOARD

Report No. 90/2015 from the Director of People was received.

Mr Bool introduced the report the purpose of which was to present a progress report on the work of the Education Performance Board covering the period November 2014-April 2015.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- i) The Panel felt that there should have been reports throughout the whole year;
- ii) Progression was being monitored so the Panel should have this information by now;
- iii) The panel asked to have evidence regarding the direction the report should take and the best way of utilising the reports;
- iv) Disappointed that the panel had not received action plans for each school;
- v) The panel felt that they had not received all of the information regarding the Education Performance Board;
- vi) The panel said that if they didn't get enough out of the meetings that they could ask for school action plans to see the direction in which the school was working toward;
- vii) Progress needs to be fed back to achieve action plans. Could be shown as a dashboard or RAG rating. Need to receive evidence straight from the school. The panel had no authority, but did have a duty to check;
- viii) The panel brought to the attention of the officers that progress reports, as noted in paragraph 3.4 of the report, had not been received although requested three times this year;
- ix) The Panel asked if action plans would be put into place, but also realised that this could be a huge undertaking and
- x) If this issue was brought up to the new panel, there would be lots of information to consider.

During the consideration of Item 10 and in accordance with Procedure Rule 119, the Scrutiny Panel AGREED to extend the finish time for the meeting to 10.15pm.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The panel requested assurance that the new panel would receive regular updates from officers;
- ii) The board is in discussion as to where the progress fits. This needs to be discussed and worked out at the Education Performance Board meetings;
- iii) Director of People said that it would better to ensure one body of education leaders that can work together and concentrate on pushing forward and address the key issues;
- iv) RCC is presently working with schools on action plans;
- v) Mark Fowler Head of Learning and Skills explained that as there are more academies now, that the authorities views are more are more influential rather than giving demands to the school;
- vi) Governance is a priority. Regular school governor meetings need to take place. School level specific issues should be addressed;
- vii) The panel stated that its concerns over the past 4 years seem to be the same with little achievement including Ofsted reports. Further information about what the authority is doing about this was required in order to increase the Panel's confidence and
- viii) Not all of the information would be easily accessed due to the academy status of some schools.

AGREED:

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

912 SACRE

Report No. 91/2015 from the Director of People was received the purpose of which was to provide a summary of the role, responsibilities and progress of the Rutland Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) for the period 2013-2015.

The Chair asked for questions from the panel regarding the SACRE report.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- i) Only 6% of students took up a GCSE in RE in Rutland in 2014;
- ii) Few other subjects teach children about society and where they believe they are in the world;
- iii) The panel felt that children did not need to have to be taught RE to be taught about society;
- iv) It was asked if SACRE was still functioning as no teachers attend the meetings currently and
- v) The panel felt that SACRE had not had enough support from the local authority which has now been addressed.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Children choose their subjects and prefer to opt for Maths or English;
- ii) The panel felt that the only people that attended SACRE meetings were from churches so there were no teachers as representatives;
- iii) In 2013 Joan Gibson Head teacher of Oakham C of E Primary Academy had retired and no replacement has been filled;
- iv) The Panel felt that SACRE had not been well run, hence the head teachers have not been fully engaged and
- v) Some re coordination would help and improvements could be made by working with other schools.

AGREED:

- i) That the content of Report No. 91/2015 be noted.

913 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

914 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

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