



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING of the PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 14th January, 2016 at 7.22 pm

PRESENT:

Mr J Dale
Mr K Bool
Mr G Conde
Ms S Gullan-Whur
Mr R Foster

Mr E Baines
Miss R Burkitt
Mr A Walters
Mr A Menzies
Mr D Wilby

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Ms S Gullan-Whur

Mr A Menzies

ABSENT:

Mrs D MacDuff
Ms J Bailey
Mr P Goringe

Mrs L Stephenson
Miss K Gordon

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dr T O'Neill
Mrs B Caffrey
Mr S Tanner

Mr M Fowler
Mr S Della Rocca
Ms D Greaves
Miss J Narey

Director for People
Head of Service: Families Support
Head of Safeguarding and Service Improvement
Head of Service: Learning and Skills
Assistant Director - Finance
Accountant
Corporate Support Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr R Foster

Mr D Wilby

Mr W Cross
Miss G Waller

Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding Children and Young People
Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning
County Councillor
County Councillor

526 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

527 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

528 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received from members.

529 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2016-17 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Report No. 19/2016, which was previously circulated under separate cover, was received from the Director of Resources. The Assistant Director (Finance), Mr Della Rocca, introduced the report.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) The Council's overall financial position had changed since the Quarter 2 financial management report.
- b) The proposed plan to increase Council Tax by 3.99% would be the first increase in 6 years but would still leave a £2.4 million funding gap by 2019/20.
- c) Costs were increasing because of the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy, and changes in National Insurance Contributions and the Pension Fund Costs.
- d) The increase in the number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding cases following the Supreme Court judgement in October 2015 and the rise in the ageing population had caused the budget to be increased from £30k to £150k.
- e) £399k had so far been saved within the People Directorate. The target for 2015/16 was £300k.
- f) The 2015/16 'over-spend' in the Home Care budget would be covered by the under-spend in the other services and budgets had been rebased from 2015/16 to cover this.
- g) The recruitment of good quality social workers was important to the service so funding was required to entice people to work in Rutland.
- h) The commissioning of services continued to be a high priority within the Directorate. It is the intention for contracts to be commissioned on a Payment by Results (PBR) method so ensuring value for money. The Head of Commissioning, Karen Kibblewhite, specialised in renewing contracts and decreasing costs not just in the People Directorate but across the Council as a whole.
- i) Public health costs were constantly being reviewed to ensure better value for money.
- j) The budget for the Better Care Fund had not yet been confirmed by Central Government so the budget was based on 2015/16 figures. This would be amended once the actual budget had been confirmed.
- k) The number of vulnerable people requiring support in Rutland was rising so more efficiency was required to provide a good quality service within the allocated budget.
- l) There was an increased cost regarding the specialist support needed for children. The Long Term Children's Care Team was now fully staffed – the first time in a long while.
- m) The budget for 'Youth Housing' had decreased by nearly £23k. This was the result of using the provision for other means and the non-replacement of staffing vacancies. However, changes would still need to be made to the budget in light of the ongoing 'Youth Services Review'.
- n) There was a 'high cost' children's placement of £100k which was not included in the budget figures as the costs involved were unknown at the time of publication. The budget figures would be amended in due course.
- o) More schools were becoming Academies and therefore not under Local Authority control so fewer School Officers were needed, leading to a decrease in the budget.

AGREED:

1. That the Panel **NOTED** the content of the Report.
2. That the Panel **NOTED** the hard work that had gone into the Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan.
3. That the budget heading 'Youth Housing' (cost centre 4713) be changed to reflect that staffing costs were also included in this cost code.
4. The wording on Page 21, Question 8 should be amended to read '... none of which have an impact on front line **services**.'

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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8.09 p.m.

Mr S Tanner, Mr M Fowler, Mr S Della Rocca and Ms D Greaves left the meeting at 8.13 p.m.

The Chair recommenced the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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530 MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel held on the 19th November 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

531 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

532 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

533 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received from members.

534 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion were received from members.

535 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.

536 YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW

Report No. 21/2016 from the Director for People was received. The Report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding Children and Young People, Mr R Foster.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- a) 290 children were consulted regarding the review and 119 responses were received.
- b) Young people were asked about the closure of Ketton Youth Club and they stated that they felt a stigma attached attending this youth club. They would much prefer to attend Oakham Youth Club which was bigger and had more people attending. However, the project was being reviewed and different options/locations were being assessed.
- c) Dr O'Neill reported that capacity would be built into community services before any changes to service delivery were made.

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Mr D Wilby left the meeting at 8.35 p.m. and re-joined the meeting at 8.37 p.m.

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- d) It was queried if Option 3 instead of Option 4 would be the better decision. Dr O'Neill stated that the Council wanted to support more children with more services and that, while some services are statutory, we needed to retain capacity for the expansion of future services. Option 4 would be the best way of ensuring this.
- e) Dr O'Neill reported that the ongoing review of youth service provision was assisting with the prevention of duplicated services and had highlighted the need for support for young people regarding mental health issues.
- f) Mrs Caffrey reported that the teams had been restructured to ensure that each young person would have the same worker to support them from the ages of 0 to 19 years and up to 25 years for a young person with a learning difficulty.

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Ms S Gullan-Whur left the meeting at 9.03 p.m.

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AGREED:

- 1. That the Panel **NOTED** the content of the Report.
- 2. That the Panel **ENDORSED** the recommended youth service redesign (Option 4) as outlined in section 4.1 of the report.
- 3. That Youth Officers would brief members of the Panel regarding youth service provision.
- 4. Dr O'Neill would notify Mr A Walters as to which group of children would prefer to talk to their parents rather than teachers (Page 125, Section 3.1.5).

537 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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