



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose on Thursday, 14th March, 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Ms R Burkitt
Mr E Baines
Mr A Lowe
Mr M Oxley
Mr A Menzies

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Mr M Andrews	Strategic Director for People
	Ms B Caffrey	Head of Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion
	Mr K Quinn	Service Manager, Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion
	Mrs J Morley	Governance Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr R Foster	Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding – Children & Young People, Armed Forces Champion
	Mr D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, Inclusion

682 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arnold and Councillor Bool.

683 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 31 January 2019, and the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget meeting, held on 23 January 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

684 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

685 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

686 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion had been received from Members.

687 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE PANEL FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

No matter had been referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to a call in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 2016.

688 SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Report No.54/2019 was received from the Strategic Director for People.

Ms Bernadette Caffrey introduced the report the purpose of which was to update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the current provisions delivered through the Young People Services and the wider links to other community services.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- In the past in Uppingham there had been an informal drop-in centre based at the cellar bar where youth workers were able to advise on all sorts of issues, including health.
- There had to be careful consideration of the problem that was trying to be solved as sometimes offering services did not address the problem. Often anti-social behaviour (ASB) was about a lack of boundaries for some young people.
- Some of the recent incidents in Uppingham had been caused by young people from outside of the area, coming in to Rutland.
- The difference made to Children Looked After and Care Leavers was measured through an annual pledge survey which showed that Rutland was performing well above that of other local authorities.
- Councillors had heard many positive stories about the number of young people in Rutland actively engaged with youth groups such as scouts, cadets and sports teams.
- The focus should be on those children who were not supported by their parents and who may have been excluded from school or who had an unsettled home life. Youth workers needed to build up trust with these children so that they could advise and signpost them if they needed help.
- The introduction of advocacy work had been particularly successful as it provided sensible support at a level that young people understood. 32 Rutland children had been helped by the advocacy support service this year.
- Although it was recognised that there was more work to be done, anti-social behaviour had reduced significantly in the last two or three years. Targeted intervention gave support to the whole family to solve issues and ultimately meant young people engaging less in this type of behaviour.

- The chart in 3.2.2 of the report used a Department for Education reporting indicator which only tracked to 18 years of age. Percentages were used because the numbers were so small that they could make the young person identifiable.
- Jules used to have its own website but it was in the process of moving over to the Rutland Information Service website.
- Engagement with young people was a key priority for Youth Services. Reports were received from the Youth Council that helped to influence service provision and young people were very welcome at meetings.
- An invitation to attend the Panel's first meeting of the new municipal year would be extended to the Youth Council.
- Work was done in schools and youth services to raise the awareness of knife crime but it was not a problem in Rutland.

RESOLVED:

1. The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the report and the provisions available to support young people in Rutland.

689 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

Report No. 55/2018 was received from the Strategic Director for People.

Mr Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Inclusion, introduced the report the purpose of which was to update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the challenges within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system and the subsequent pressure on the Designated Schools Grant High Needs budget.

The report also provided the Panel with detail on the current system challenges as a result of growing demand and the new legal burdens placed on Local Authorities and outlines the steps in place to address these and reduce the pressure on the High Needs budget.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Although there were pressures, the funding situation in Rutland was much better than compared to neighbouring authorities. Action was still needed however in order that the offer could be further improved and developed.
- The numbers of children with SEND was increasing because of a number of factors; more children were surviving and moving into education, more families were aware of the support on offer, more children were being diagnosed at an earlier stage and more children had multi-faceted complex problems.
- Additional pressure was placed on funds because reforms had meant that the Council now had a duty of care to support children beyond the age of 19 and up to age 25.
- There was a need to shape provision so that it allowed young people to get used to the society that they would grow up to be adults in. It could be advantageous to children to be educated in mainstream settings as it would help with their socialisation and preparation for adulthood and independence.
- Ideally, SEND provision needed to be flexible and supportive with children being able to step in and out of mainstream education.

- It was difficult to show a comparison between the Rutland figures, shown in the table at 3.2.1 of the report, and national statistics as other authorities often had different systems. Officers who had attended conferences had heard from Directors of Children Services that other authorities were facing bigger pressures however this may not have been published information.
- One of the challenges in planning provision was that Rutland had small numbers of children with SEND spread over different year groups.
- Sometimes children were placed in other Local Authority schools but the Council's aim was to have provision that was the least restrictive and that was as close to possible to where they grow up in order that children would have a local peer support group.
- There was an increasing number of parents requesting assessments for their children. Officers considered the needs of each child and family and balanced that with the cost to the public purse. The cost of a tribunal could be significant and was considered carefully when deciding whether to go to appeal. Officers would challenge costs of placements which had a huge implication for the Council but consideration of the child's needs was always foremost.
- There were highly motivated teachers and teaching assistants who had taken up training to help and support children with SEND.
- There were young people peer educators who acted to support the emotional health of others in schools.

RESOLVED:

The Panel

1. **NOTED** the challenges within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system and the subsequent pressure placed on the Designated Schools Grant High Needs Block.
2. **NOTED** and provided direction on the future action outlined to address the High Needs funding pressures.

690 UPDATE ON TRANSITION TO MULTIAGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

A presentation (appended to the minutes) was given by Mr Mark Andrews, Strategic Director for People which updated the Panel on the transition from the Safeguarding Children Board to multiagency safeguarding arrangements.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Unlike Rutland who had a good experience of the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Board (LRSB), the national view of safeguarding boards was that they had been expensive and ineffective which was why there had been a move to change the arrangements.
- The Board would be replaced by safeguarding partners who consisted of the Local Authority, CCGs and the Police. The partners would have joint responsibility for the role and share costs. Partners would make their decision on the arrangements in May but because of purdah at the Council, Cabinet would not be asked to agree them until June which was still in line with the publication deadline set by the Department of Education.

- The overall simplified governance structure was shown in slide 4 of the presentation and showed that the Young People's Advisory Group and the Case Review Group would be Leicestershire and Rutland only. Leicester City would be involved in joint board office functions
- From an operational safeguarding view the difficult issue to handle was when schools believed that they had handed over information and that it had been acted on. To address this there was now a social care qualified member of staff who went into secondary schools on a weekly basis, rather than only at the stressful point of referral, to allay any concerns school staff had and also to help collate some of the information they needed.
- The new Safeguarding Children Partnership had no operational functions but was a forum that enabled challenge of the services provided.
- There would be an equal funding split between partners three ways but the funding proportion of the third for local Councils had yet to be decided.
- The Director for People would present a further update to Scrutiny before implementation of the new arrangements on 22 September 2019.

RESOLVED:

1. The Panel **NOTED** the new arrangements for safeguarding children and the transition to a multiagency Safeguarding Children Partnership.

691 QUARTER 3 FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The report was taken without debate.

AGREED:

That the Panel **NOTED** the report.

692 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORKPLAN

No relevant items were identified for inclusion in the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel annual work plan.

693 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business had been previously notified to the person presiding.

694 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed after agreement of the Calendar of Meetings at the Annual Council in May.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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Rutland
County Council

Safeguarding Partners and Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Mark Andrews
Strategic Director for People

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One of the most prominent *Working Together 2018* changes is the **replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)** with Safeguarding Partners.

Safeguarding Partners will consist of local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, and chief officers of police; working with relevant appropriate agencies within their locality to safeguard and protect children.

All three Safeguarding Partners have **equal responsibility** for fulfilling their role.

Replace the current Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) by September 2019.

The Department for Education requires we publish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by June 2019

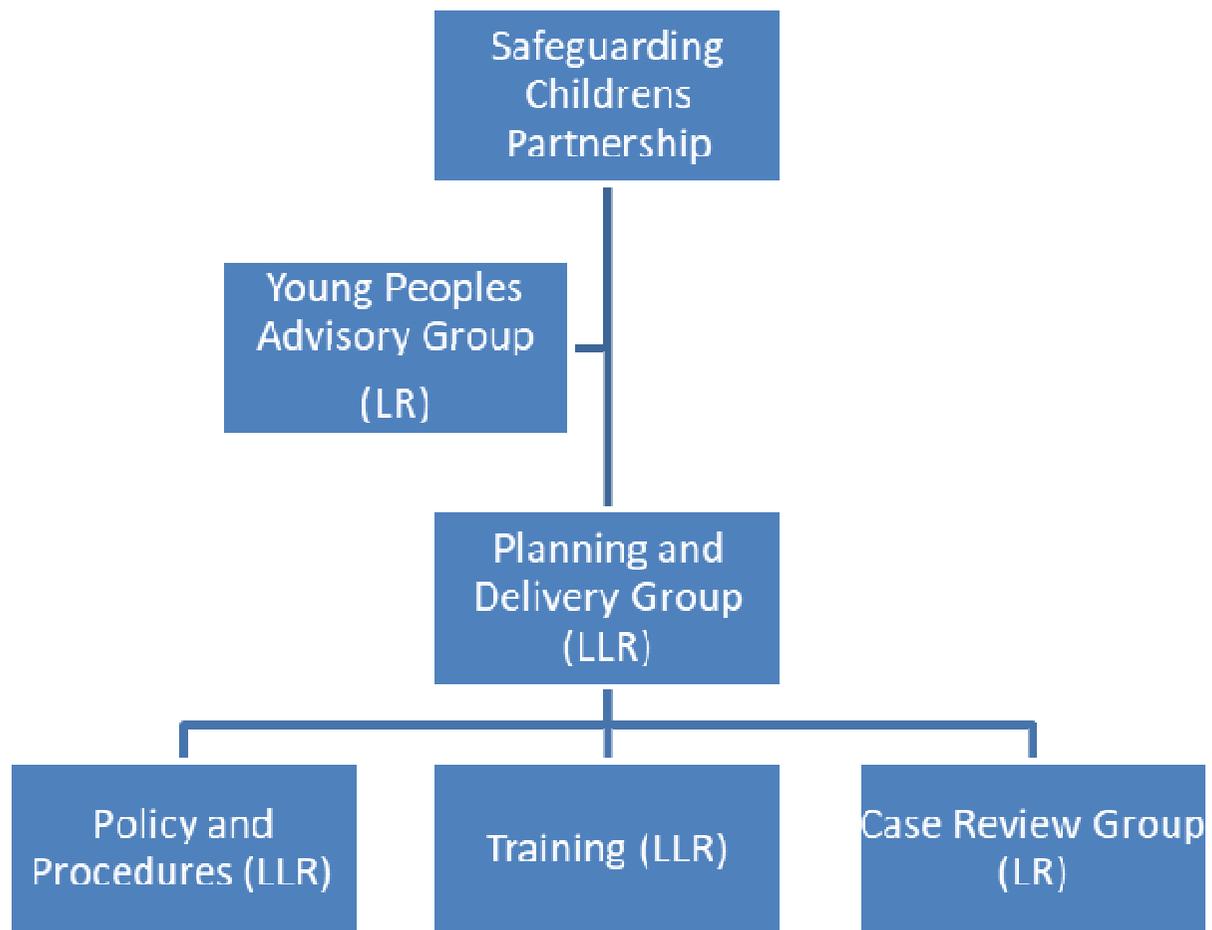


two phase approach will be taken:

Phase one: Governance arrangements completed and published by June 2019 for implementation by 22nd September 2019

Accountability and Governance - Strong leadership is critical and the desired objective is for a leaner system that avoids duplication, has a multi-agency focus, reduces meeting time and ensures a focus on quality and impact on multi-agency practice in frontline services. Work is being finalised by partners on streamlining governance and accountability framework, this will be completed by May 2019.

Independent Scrutiny - The Independent Chair is currently engaging with partners to clearly define the elements of independent scrutiny in the new arrangements. From September 2019 in the new arrangements it is proposed that the current Independent Chair model be adapted to become an Independent Advisor.





Phase Two: After September 2019 - Board Office Function and Resourcing

It is the partnership ambition that the Board Office is a joint office across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and if possible, across Adults and Children to ensure maximum use of resources.

Funding - Yet to be agreed, but should be equitable and proportionate under the new arrangements. All partners have said they will not provide a greater contribution and will be seeking savings in future years.

Approval of the safeguarding arrangements - The new safeguarding arrangements will be finalised by May 2019 for approval at partnership boards, however elections in Rutland mean we will approve at June cabinet.

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