



# **Rutland County Council**

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held via Zoom on Thursday, 16th December, 2021 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Ainsley (Chair)  
Councillor E Baines  
Councillor N Begy  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor P Browne  
Councillor J Fox  
Councillor S Webb

**ABSENT:** Councillor L Toseland  
Andreas Menzies Parent Governor  
Irene Kearney- Rose Parent Governor

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS** Councillor D Wilby Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services  
**PRESENT:** Councillor S Harvey Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children and Families  
Bernadette Caffrey Head of Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion  
Louise Crookenden- SEND Capital Programme Manager  
Johnson  
Jane Narey Scrutiny Officer (Clerk)

**APOLOGIES:** Peter French Parent Governor  
Karen Kibblewhite Head of Commissioning

## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Councillor Ainsley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from the co-opted member Mr Peter French and from Karen Kibblewhite, Head of Commissioning.

## **2 RECORD OF MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### **4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no petitions, deputations, or questions.

### **5 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

There were no questions with notice from members

### **6 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

There were no notices of motion from members

### **7 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION**

There were no call-ins.

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At the request of Dawn Godfrey and with the permission of the Chair, it was agreed that Agenda Item 10 would be discussed first, followed by Agenda Item 9 and then Agenda Item 8.

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### **8 SEND RECOVERY PLAN PROJECTS: UPDATE**

Report No. 188/2021 was received from Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion and was presented by Louise Crookenden-Johnson, SEND Capital Programme Manager. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The High Needs cumulative deficit was projected to be about £1m by March 2022 and would increase by approximately £500k per year.
- 100 children had been considered through the sector led panel process. In the future, schools would be able to commission support directly using their own funds.
- There had been a significant reduction in the number of excluded pupils at Catmose College because of the projects.
- The demand for EHCP's had increased in the past year.
- The national review of the SEND Code of Practice had not been finalised.
- The projects were assisting schools to act early when they saw that a child's social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs had escalated so that support could be put in place to prevent a child from being moved into the SEND system.
- Councillor Brown requested that the 'current modelling' table (page 45) be simplified as the items in brackets usually identified a deficit, which was not the case in this example.

#### **ACTION: Louise Crookenden-Johnson**

- Dawn Godfrey confirmed that the projects were moving in the right direction to financially balance in the long-term, without the need to reduce services.

- Louise Crookenden-Johnson confirmed that some schools had not understood the projects at the beginning but have since seen the results and were now very supportive of the projects.
- Councillor E Baines stated that he would abstain from voting as he had not received the papers until the afternoon of the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the progress and emerging impact of the SEND Recovery Plan group of projects.
- b) **ENDORSED** the actions planned to continue to positively impact the High Needs Budget deficit.

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Louise Crookenden-Johnson left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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## **9 REVIEW OF COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND YOUTH OFFENDING**

Report No. 187/2021 was received from Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director – Children's Services. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The report and Appendix A detailed the different services commissioned by Children's Services and due for recommissioning within the next 2 years.
- Some services were commissioned to other Local Authorities to deliver on our behalf due to the small size of Rutland County Council namely adoption services, which were commissioned to Lincolnshire County Council; the children's social care legal services, which were commissioned to Peterborough City Council and the out of hours service, which was commissioned to Leicestershire County Council.
- Dawn Godfrey had established the Children's Commissioning Group to oversee all of Children's Services commissioning. The group ensured that all commissioned services were provided to a high quality via monthly meetings with the respective Local Authorities.
- Councillor Begy asked how such a big job was managed and errors prevented. Dawn Godfrey confirmed that KPI's (key performance indicators) were issued with each contract and were closely monitored by Children's Services and the Commissioning Team during the life of the contract.
- Healthy Child Programme extended to undertake a full review of the service specifications in two sections: 0–11-year-olds and the 12–19-year-olds.
- Contracts were reviewed when due for renewal to assess if the service was still required, if there was any duplication of services and if the service could be provided cheaper but with the same quality by a different provider.
- Bernadette confirmed the Educational Psychology Service had 275 children with a plan and that the service did not have a waiting list, unlike many other Local Authorities. However, the demand for plans and assessments of children was expected to rise, especially those arising from parental requests. Dawn Godfrey also reported that a national shortage of qualified Educational Psychologists would also increase costs.
- Bernadette Caffrey clarified that 'ADHD Solutions' were an independent charitable provider working across Rutland and Leicestershire.

- Dawn Godfrey stated that the Official Journal of the European Union stated in item 10.1 was no longer relevant due to Brexit.
- Bernadette Caffrey confirmed that the 'greater choice and control' stated in item 10.3 was not an 'open cheque' to families. Instead, families, if they met the threshold for support, were given a set amount via a personal budget or a direct payment for them to directly purchase the service(s) they deemed most appropriate.
- Councillor Ainsley stated that the commissioning of services for the Council's Children's Services was very complex, with 21 contracts due for renewal in 2022 alone.

## **RESOLVED**

That Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the commissioning arrangements, assurances and impact of significant commissioned contracts in Children's Services

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Dawn Godfrey and Bernadette Caffrey left the meeting at 8.38 p.m.

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## **10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

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Councillor N Begy left the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

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## **11 APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

- Councillor Ainsley informed attendees that, following Councillor Harvey's appointment to the Cabinet, a new Vice Chair for the Scrutiny Committee was needed.
- There were no nominations for the role of Vice Chair, so Councillor Ainsley nominated Councillor Sue Webb as the Vice Chair. This was seconded by Councillor P Browne and was unanimously agreed by the committee.

## **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Sue Webb was **APPOINTED** as the Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

## **12 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

The Forward Plan and Work Plan were discussed. No changes were made.

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

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

This would be a joint meeting with the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee with only 1 item on the agenda: The Budget for 2022/23

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	By
1	9	Councillor Brown requested that the 'current modelling' table (page 45) be simplified as the items in brackets usually identified a deficit, which was not the case in this example.	<b>Louise Crookenden- Johnson</b>

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.**

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