

## **Rutland County Council**

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email: [governance@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rutland.gov.uk)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A meeting of the **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held Via Zoom - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93333104034> on **Thursday, 16th December, 2021** commencing at 7.00 pm when it is hoped you will be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

**Mark Andrews**  
**Chief Executive**

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### **A G E N D A**

**1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

**2) RECORD OF MEETING**

To confirm the record of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.  
(Pages 5 - 10)

**3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Regulations, Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

**4) PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

To receive any petitions, deputations and questions received from Members of the Public in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 216.

The total time allowed for this item shall be 30 minutes. Petitions, declarations and questions shall be dealt with in the order in which they are received. Questions may also be submitted at short notice by giving a written copy to the Committee Administrator 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.

The total time allowed for questions at short notice is 15 minutes out of the total time of 30 minutes. Any petitions, deputations and questions that have been submitted with prior formal notice will take precedence over questions submitted at short notice. Any questions that are not considered within the time limit shall receive a written response after the meeting and be the subject of a report to the next meeting.

**5) QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

To consider any questions with notice from Members received in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rules No 218 and No. 218A.

**6) NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

To consider any Notices of Motion from Members submitted in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule No 219.

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

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

**8) APPOINTMENT OF A NEW VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

To appoint a new Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee following Councillor Harvey's appointment to the Cabinet.

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

To receive Report No.187/2021 from Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion  
(Pages 11 - 40)

**10) SEND RECOVERY PLAN PROJECTS: UPDATE**

To receive Report No. 188/2021 from Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Help, SEND and Inclusion  
(Pages 41 - 50)

**11) ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To receive any other items of urgent business which have been previously

notified to the person presiding

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

To consider the current Forward Plan and identify any relevant items for inclusion in the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Annual Work Plan, or to request further information.

The Forward Plan is available on the website at:

<https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=133&RD=0>  
(Pages 51 - 56)

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

Wednesday, 26th January 2022 at 7 pm

This will be a joint meeting with the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with only 1 item on the agenda: The Budget for 2022/23

## **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

## **14) QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE DATA**

To receive report number 182/2021 from Jon Weller, Business Intelligence Manager.

**Please note:** this item is purely for information and will not be discussed in the Scrutiny Committee meeting. If you have any queries regarding this report, please contact Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director of Children and Families (DCS)  
(Pages 57 - 62)

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## **TO: ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Name	
1.	Councillor P Ainsley (Chair)
2.	Councillor N Begy
3.	Councillor A Brown
4.	Councillor P Browne
5.	Councillor S Harvey
6.	Councillor S Webb

## **CO-OPTED MEMBERS:**

Name	Title
7. Andreas Menzies	Parent Governor

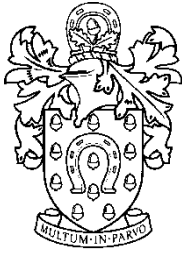
8.	Peter French	Parent Governor
9.	Irene Kearney-Rose	Parent Governor

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:**

Name		Title
10.	Councillor D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

**OFFICERS:**

Name		Title
11.	Dawn Godfrey	Strategic Director of Children and Families
12.	Lydia Bennett	Head of Children's Social Care (Interim)
13.	Bernadette Caffrey	Head of Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion
14.	Gill Curtis	Head of Learning and Skills



## **Rutland County Council**

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held via Zoom on Thursday, 30th September, 2021 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor P Ainsley (Chair)  
Councillor N Begy  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor P Browne  
Councillor R Coleman  
Councillor S Harvey

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRESENT:** Councillor D Wilby Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children & Families  
Lydia Bennett Head of Children's Social Care (Interim)  
Bernadette Caffrey Head of Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion  
Lizzie Papworth Interim Service Manager, Learning & Skills  
Jane Narey Interim Senior Governance Officer

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sharon Milner Executive Headteacher, Brooke Hill Academy Trust  
Morag Tyler Project Manager, Resilient Rutland  
Lucy Lewin Learning and Development Manager, Little Angels Nursey, Uppingham

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor S Webb  
Gill Curtis Head of Learning and Skills

**ABSENT:** Andreas Menzies Parent Governor  
Peter French Parent Governor  
Irene Kearney-Rose Parent Governor

### **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Councillor Ainsley welcomed everyone to the meeting including Councillor Paul Browne who was a new member of the Committee. Apologies were received from Councillor Sue Webb and Gill Curtis, Head of Learning and Skills

### **2 RECORD OF MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held the 24 June 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Councillor Ainsley stated that the previous minutes reported that the final draft of the Children's Services Offer would be distributed for consultation at the end of September 2021. However, work was still ongoing with the document as a few minor amendments were required but that it would be ready for distribution in early October.

Councillor Ainsley also stated that the revised quality assurance framework for Children's Services was in place and that if issues regarding quality of partners practice were identified then they were raised with the relevant partner and escalated through the safeguarding partnership procedures

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Brown reported a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a family magistrate on the Leicestershire and Rutland Magistrates Courts.

Councillor Harvey reported a non-pecuniary interest regarding Report No. 125/2021 as she was a member of the Children's Services Improvement Board.

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

None were received

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

None were received

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

None were received

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

None were received

### **8 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chair reported that, since the last meeting, he had received one nomination for the post of Vice-Chair of the Committee from Councillor S Harvey. The nomination was seconded by Councillor A Brown. There were no other nominations received.

### **RESOLVED**

a) That Councillor S Harvey was **APPOINTED** as the Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

### **9 ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID ON THE EDUCATION OF RUTLAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Report No. 127/2021 was received from Dawn Godfrey and Lizzie Papworth with an accompanying presentation (copy attached). During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Department for Education (DfE) would not be publishing examination results/education performance data for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 due to the pandemic.
- Early Years provision was all about the relationships and everyone had pulled together during the pandemic and a lot of support had been provided to parents and children.
- A new level of need has been identified post pandemic with children in the early years setting regarding parental attachment and food issues.
- The film regarding the Summer Camps – Health and Wellbeing Support can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yy-loK2dK1o>
- Councillor Wilby thanked all the presenters for an excellent report and presentation. He stated that all the Rutland schools and the Local Authority staff had done a colossal amount of work during the pandemic.

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Councillor P Browne joined the meeting at 20:05

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- Councillor Begy queried the wording regarding tutoring for Year 10. Lizzie Papworth confirmed that the wording for Catmose College Year 10 tutoring should read 'given' and not 'offered' as stated in the presentation and that the school had seen a good take up by pupils for the English and Maths tutoring.
- Lizzie Papworth also confirmed that the same processes and standards had been undertaken by all three Rutland secondary schools. The schools had worked together and received Ofsted monitoring visits that ensured best practice had been put in place and shared.
- Councillor Begy asked if there had been any reported differences between the state and private schools. Morag Tyler stated Resilient Rutland's offer between the two was slightly different so no comparison of data could be done. However, all they had all experienced increased issues regarding child anxiety.
- Councillor Begy asked if there was any data regarding the number mental health requirements before, during and after the Covid lockdown. Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Years, SEND and Inclusion confirmed that there had been an increase in the number of referrals for support, but this had shown a mixed picture for the support required, as it had also done nationally.
- Councillor Begy stated that report item 3.6 stated that two nurseries had been inspected and enquired why it was not stated in the report that one of the nurseries had been classed as inadequate. Dawn Godfrey replied that the report confirmed that two nurseries had been inspected but did not state the inspection result for either service provision. However, the link to the full inspection reports had been included in the report for members to access and view for themselves. Lizzie Papworth confirmed that the Head of Service and officers had met with the managers of the nursery to ensure actions were being carried out and that monitoring visits by the Local Authority had been arranged for September, November and December.
- Councillor Coleman thanked everyone for the presentation and asked if school staff showed any signs of long Covid. Sharon Milner confirmed that yes, she had four staff on a phased return to work due to long covid symptoms and this had resulted in staff shortages.

- Councillor Coleman asked when the Wellbeing for Education Recovery Programme for 2021-2022 (as stated in the report at 4.3.2) would be finalised. Dawn Godfrey confirmed that it would follow on from the Wellbeing for Education Return, which was being done to gather sufficient and clear data that could be evaluated to ensure the continuation of the good work and support into the Autumn term.
- Councillor Harvey stated that the report did not show the differences in support across the education provisions e.g. how many hours each year group did using remote learning in each school. Sharon Milner confirmed that schools had received very clear guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the number of remote working hours for children and that schools had worked together to ensure pupils received the correct number of hours accessing remote learning.
- Dawn Godfrey emphasised that Rutland schools had remained open to all vulnerable children during the lockdowns and not just those of key workers and that the LA continued to have weekly meetings with the DfE.
- Councillor P Browne suggested that [Resilient Rutland](#) made a presentation to the Scrutiny Committee in the future regarding their sustainability plan for actions after July 2022.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the Committee **NOTED** the content of the report and the actions taken within the education sector to address the impact of COVID on the education of Rutland children and young people.

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Lizzie Papworth, Sharon Milner, Lucy Lewin and Morag Tyler  
left the meeting at 20:34

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## **10 REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES OFSTED IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Report No. 125/2021 was received from Dawn Godfrey and Lydia Bennett with an accompanying presentation (copy attached). During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Wilby informed attendees that Children's Services was previously not in a good place. There had been plenty of enthusiasm and hard work but systems had lacked process and attention to detail. The service had greatly improved under the direction of Dawn Godfrey and Emma Sweeny, Head of Service for Children's Social Care. Monthly improvement meetings were held and empty posts were filled, with the new staff bringing new ideas and ways of working.
- There was a seamless transition over to Lydia Bennett when Emma Sweeny went on maternity leave in April 2020 and Lydia has continued the great work in Emma's absence.
- The social worker trainees had decided to stay with Rutland County Council after graduating and brought much enthusiasm to the service.
- The service continued to work well with partners particularly so as part of the Children and Young People Partnership Group.
- The Corporate Parenting Board continued to work well and the use of virtual meetings and social media during the pandemic ensured our continued connectivity with young people.



- Cllr Wilby stated that he was pleased with the progress made by the service, was very proud of the team and was confident that Children's Services would successfully meet the next Ofsted challenge.
- Lydia Bennett briefed attendees using the presentation and showed the video 'A Day in the Life of Social Worker' – link detailed below:

[https://rutlandcountycouncil-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lbennett\\_rutland\\_gov\\_uk/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fibennett%5Frutland%5Fgov%5Fuk%2FDocuments%2FVideo%2F%27A%20day%20in%20the%20life%27%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fibennett%5Frutland%5Fgov%5Fuk%2FDocuments%2FVideo&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9ydXR5YW5kY291bnR5Y291bmNpbC1teS5zaGFyZXBvaW50LmNvbS86djovZy9wZXJzb25hbC9sYmVubmV0dF9ydXR5YW5kX2dvdI91ay9FYkM1M2FHdVIHRkptT25aZkQzazBHUUJzMncwZWlnMk11cDd0bHhxYmJsWHFnP3J0aW1IPUdPWk9QZ3VCMIVn](https://rutlandcountycouncil-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lbennett_rutland_gov_uk/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fibennett%5Frutland%5Fgov%5Fuk%2FDocuments%2FVideo%2F%27A%20day%20in%20the%20life%27%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fibennett%5Frutland%5Fgov%5Fuk%2FDocuments%2FVideo&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9ydXR5YW5kY291bnR5Y291bmNpbC1teS5zaGFyZXBvaW50LmNvbS86djovZy9wZXJzb25hbC9sYmVubmV0dF9ydXR5YW5kX2dvdI91ay9FYkM1M2FHdVIHRkptT25aZkQzazBHUUJzMncwZWlnMk11cDd0bHhxYmJsWHFnP3J0aW1IPUdPWk9QZ3VCMIVn)

- Lydia Bennett confirmed that, apart from one vacancy, the service had a permanent workforce.
- Councillor A Brown thanked Lydia Bennett for the presentation and requested clarification regarding the Through Care Team. Lydia Bennett stated that the Through Care Team was a newly restructured team within the service to support care leavers and prepare them for adulthood from an early age.
- Councillors confirmed that they felt happy and confident that the service had improved and would continue to improve.
- Councillor Coleman queried the results from the staff exit interviews and Lydia Bennett confirmed that conversations had been held with leavers to discover what the service could have done or done better to ensure team stability.

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Councillor Ainsley proposed the meeting was extended and this was unanimously agreed at 21:27

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- Councillor Ainsley thanked Dawn Godfrey and Lydia Bennett and their staff for all their hard work and the progress made by the teams. He asked if the improvement plan would be updated. Dawn Godfrey confirmed that the service was currently updating their self-assessment data for sharing with Ofsted in the annual engagement meeting in October and that a new development plan would be available in November.

## RESOLVED:

- a) That the Committee **NOTED** the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Plan in response to the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted and offered comment on any areas where they felt progress was slower than expected.

## 11 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AS AT END OF QUARTER ONE 2021-22

Report No. 126/2021 was received from Dawn Godfrey and Jon Weller. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Dawn Godfrey confirmed that the item was for information and not an agenda item for discussion.

- She stated that she would circulate future performance reports as and when they were issued rather than present them at the next scrutiny meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That the Committee **NOTED** the performance information as at the end of quarter one (April – June) 2021-22.

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

There were no amendments

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Lydia Bennett left the meeting at 21:34

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**13 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**14 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 16 December 2021 at 7 pm.

It will be agreed nearer the date if the meeting will be held via Zoom or in person.

Proposed Agenda Items:

1. Review of Commissioned Services and Youth Offending  
(Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion, Head of Children's Social Care and Head of Commissioning)
2. SEND Recovery Plan: Projects Update  
(Report from Head of Early Help, SEND and Inclusion)

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.**

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## CHILDRENS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### REVIEW OF COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND YOUTH OFFENDING

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Families

Strategic Aim:	Creating a brighter future for all	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference:	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder Education and Children's Services.	
Contact Officer(s):	Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director Children and Families.	01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors		

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the commissioning arrangements, assurances, and impact of significant commissioned contracts in Children's Services.

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides members of Scrutiny Committee with information on key processes and developments in Children's Services commissioning.

## 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The governance arrangements in place around Rutland County Council's Children's Services ensures corporate accountability and scrutiny of the service. The Children's Directorate Leadership Team reports to the Council's Senior Leadership team including Members, which in report to Cabinet and to the Corporate Parenting Board, informed by Children's Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 We have a locality Children's and Young People's Partnership, a subgroup of the Rutland Health and Well Being Board, which comprises representatives of our key statutory partners, the voluntary sector and parents which drives our Strategic Children's Plan and key strategic objectives.
- 2.3 We are part of the Leicestershire and Rutland (LR), Children and Young People's Safeguarding Partnership working with wider partnership agencies to safeguard and

promote children and young people's welfare and engage with partnership activity including monitoring and auditing of services.

Our commissioning processes are reviewed at our Children's Services Commissioning group, chaired by the Strategic Director. There are Quality Assurance, (QA) processes built into our contract monitoring and in addition, individual children's services seek challenge and assurance through our QA and Performance Framework. Our commissioned placements and provision is reviewed during statutory reviews as well as through the Council's multidisciplinary panels such as Children Looked After (CLA), ARC and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel, 0 to 19 Assurance Board and the Children's Centre Governance Group.

### **3 COMISSIONING PROCESS**

- 3.1 As contracts come towards their last 18 months, Officers begin the process of recommissioning. The service area with support from the Commissioning Team review current provision against performance of the contract, need for the service(s) in the future, and potential demand. This is used to create an options appraisal for future delivery. Where relevant, potential providers will be identified, and a Soft Market Test undertaken to establish the viability of the option(s) for delivery of the service identified. The resulting information from all of the above leads to the development of a specification by the service area.
- 3.2 Where a service needs to be externally procured, then this will be undertaken in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the route of procurement dependent on the contract value.
- 3.3 Where services are statutory, there may be limited choice for future provision, for example in the case of the provision of out of hours social care, youth justice statutory duties which is provided on Rutland's behalf by Leicestershire County Council.

### **4 CONTRACT MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS IN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICE**

- 4.1 Contract monitoring meetings are taking place monthly with, Lincolnshire County Council (Adoption), Peterborough City Council (Legal Services) and Leicestershire County Council (Out of Hours Service). The meeting is attended by the Head of Service and Service Manager.
- 4.2 Monthly contract meetings are used to monitor efficiency. We also manage and improve any performance issues, identifying lessons learnt to improve process and to inform future contract terms or strategies.
- 4.3 We have a working agreement with Peterborough County Council (PCC), legal services for children social care cases.
- 4.4 Family Group Conferencing is spot purchased when there is a requirement.

### **5 CONTRACT MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS IN EARLY HELP, SEND AND INCLUSION SERVICES**

- 5.1 Contract monitoring meetings, undertaken by the Head of Service or Service

Manager, take place monthly or bi-monthly with key providers, including Leicestershire County Council Youth Justice service, School Development Support Agency, (SDSA), for our SENDIASS provision, Partners in Psychology, (PIP), our independent provider for our Educational Psychology services, Public Health 0 to 19 Assurance Board. The commissioned contracts associated with the SEND Recovery Plan are monitored via the monthly Education Inclusion Panel and report to Schools Forum.

- 5.2 The strategic leadership and governance oversight for these contracts comes from the Rutland Children and Young People's Partnership, the SEND Programme Board, and the Schools Forum, all of whom receive progress and impact reports.
- 5.3 When appropriate case level examples are utilised, to evidence impact, or to identify value for money and cost avoidance as referred to in the separate SEND Recovery Plan update report.
- 5.4 Practice and outcomes for children and families are also monitored through our QA and Performance framework, including the use of the performance scorecard, and practice reviews.
- 5.5 A number of the providers will be subjected to external regulatory inspection processes also, such as HMIP, CQC and Ofsted inspections.
- 5.6 In addition to these large Provider contracts, described in the appended spreadsheet, (Appendix A), the service has a large number of contracts associated with the provision for individual children, such as SEND children and young people, who have specific education, health or social care provision and interventions set out in their statutory Education Health and Care Plans, (EHCP). There are 275 EHCPs as of October 2021. Contacts and oversight is also in place for children who are receiving their education other than at school, (EOTAS), this includes children who may have a school exclusion or have medical needs. The decision-making process, value for money and contract compliance for these cohorts of children are tested through the SEND multiagency Panel . The fortnightly Panel oversees all provision for children with complex needs or SEND.

## **6 CONTRACT MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE**

- 6.1 Services are contracted by the Learning and Skills Service to ensure statutory duties are fulfilled, utilising specialist skills and knowledge to ensure provision is meeting need.
- 6.2 Contracts are reviewed throughout the length of the contract, and contracts may be adjusted following review to ensure they are offering best value.
- 6.3 Contracts to support the work of the Virtual School are financed through specified grant funding and are monitored through regular meetings and are reported through the Virtual School Annual Report to the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 For some contracts, such as the Educational Psychology, (EP) contract and the SENDIASS contract, a full-service review, and consultation with the SEND community was undertaken to inform the tendering process. Other contracts will not

require a community wide consultation as the offer has been tried and tested and levels of satisfaction with the service offer are high. However, services will engage children young parents and their families, or representative groups such as the Rutland Parent Carer Voice and through regular feedback from young people , such as Children in Care Council, (CIC), Disabled Youth Forum (DYF), alongside our satisfactory surveys undertaken regularly, which inform proposed models.

## **8 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1 Both options appraisal exercises and soft market testing responses, will inform services if there are options open to the Local Authority to deliver a different model or a more cost-effective model. The service may be tied into a specific option due to the wider strategic arrangements, such as the Leicestershire Judicial system.
- 8.2 The 'anticipated maximum costs' of a contract can be based on the current provider's quotation. However, a key purpose for going to procurement is to encourage competition and obtain value for money and a bidder could come in lower than the advertised price.
- 8.3 The option to revise a contract based on demand will be tested during a procurement process. Some services want a contract that will allow for, the option to reduce the contract value should the number of cases, assessments or interventions decrease. A number of contracts such as the EP contract, or the YJS contract have a block payment for a guaranteed number of cases with extras paid as a spot purchase on a case-by-case basis

## **9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The increase in demand in some services, such as SEND education, health, and care assessments and EHCPs has resulted in increased demand in specific statutory services, such as the EP service and an increased cost of the contract which will create a new budget pressure in the Council's SEN Operations budget, as there is no way to mitigate this pressure within the service, for which RCC will be liable.
- 9.2 Our procurement process and decision-making panels will seek assurance that the provision commissioned for children and young people and families is cost effective and efficient. Our Internal Audit process will regularly test this.

## **10 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council would not be able to go to direct award of a contract if the value of the contract is above the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) threshold and therefore the Public Contract Regulations require competition for this.
- 10.2 The Local Authority and its partners have a number of key statutory obligations to children and young people, which includes, identification and assessment of risk and need, the delivery of early and targeted support and the provision of specialist interventions.
- 10.3 The Children and Families Act and Care Act 2014 places greater emphasis and importance on giving children and their carer's greater choice and control in the support they need. So individual and creative commissioning arrangements and the use of personal budgets and direct payments is explored where possible.

## **11 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

## **12 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 12.1 The Local Authority has a duty under the Children Act and the SEND Code of Practice to safeguard and protect children and to meet the needs of children with additional needs or deemed to be children in need.

## **13 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to safeguard vulnerable children at home and in the community,

## **14 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 It is intended through the interventions described in the appended spreadsheet, Appendix A, that children will have their needs identified and responded to appropriately and within the Local Authority's statutory duties. The development work built into a number of contracts enable services to also respond to children's needs early, and therefore reduce the risk of children escalating into specialist services, which are already under increasing pressure to meet assessment and therapy timescales.

## **15 CONCLUSION**

- 15.1 Notes the commissioning arrangements, assurances, and impact of significant commissioned contracts in Children's Services.

## **16 BACKGROUND PAPERS - THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND PAPERS TO THE REPORT**

## **17 APPENDICES APPENDIX A. - CONTRACT REGISTER**

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

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## Appendix A. Contracts Register

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
<p>The Provision of SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities Information Advice &amp; Support Service</p> <p>17</p>	School Development Support Agency	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Statutory duty under the Children and Families Act 2014. The service will provide confidential advice and guidance in line with the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) national guidance and Children and Families Act which is independent, impartial, consistent, accurate and offering choices and options to children and young people (CYP) and parents/carers.	£89,177.46	01-Jan-20	31-Mar-23		Quarterly meeting held with Senior Practitioner and Service Manager All KPI s being met	Positive feedback from parents regarding support provided. Good working relationship with RCC, Rutland Parent Carer Voice and Rutland Disabled Youth Forum as well as with other partners. Enables RCC to understand trends and future concerns amongst parents and to diffuse them at the earliest point in time.
Youth Justice Services	Leicestershire County Council	Community Safety.	Support and programmes for referred young	£74,000.00	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-22	1 year	Quarterly contract monitoring meetings well	Current poor value for money as contract not

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
18		Contact management sits with the Early Help service.	offenders. This includes a preventative and early help offer. The presence of a dedicated Rutland YJS practitioner 4 days per week					<p>established, along with monthly update meetings. There has been poor performance against this contract which has been and continues to be addressed. Progress is being made, part of the issue is poor performance of an individual and partially it is due to the contract not being compatible with the YJS offer provided to the rest of LLR.</p> <p>The contract is currently under review and any new contract will address current performance issues.</p>	<p>being delivered to its full potential.</p> <p>The contract has supported between 10 to 15 young people each year.</p> <p>There is significant scope to reduce the contract value when renewing the contract.</p>

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
The Provision of an Out of Hours Children's Social Care Service in Rutland	Leicestershire County Council	Children Social Care	Out-of-hours duty service for children's social care.	£180,000.00	01-Oct-18	30-Sep-22	2 years		
Provision of Adoption Services for Rutland	Lincolnshire County Council	Fostering, Adoption & Care Leaver	Adoption Services and support for the Council.	£206,446.50	01-Apr-19	30-Sep-22	1 year		
Education Psychology - The Provision of Educational Psychology Services in Rutland	Partners in Psychology Limited	Early Help SEND and Inclusion service	Educational Psychology (EP) is a statutory provision required under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2015. Educational Psychologists carry out assessments of children to understand their cognitive and emotional needs and to provide expert advice to practitioners to	£540,000.00	01-Sep-18	31-Aug-22	1 years	Bimonthly contract meetings are held with the Principal EP and the HOS. Activity reports are presented to the Commissioning Group. The offer provides continuity for children and families and there is a good level of confidence in Rutland's current model. Recommendations from the 2017 Ofsted Inspection to reduce EP waiting times have been	The increase in demand for SEND education, health, and care assessments and EHCPs has resulted in increased demand on the EP service. The current contract has reached 4 years of its 5-year contract and has Cabinet approval to progress a procurement of a new contract. The value of the new contract will be £774,000 over 4 years,

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
20			inform the most appropriate intervention and educational provision for children and young people with SEND.					<p>addressed, and parental and partner agencies' confidence in the service was tested by the SEND Peer Review 2019 and was found to be positive.</p> <p>Some EP services are not within the scope of the core contract and are covered under separate contractual arrangements, such as therapeutic interventions for the Education Inclusion Partnerships, Wellbeing in Schools, and Children Looked After and Care Leavers. PIP also offer traded work</p>	however that this is not a guaranteed amount, and the service will only pay for what is used.

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
								to schools under a separate SLA.	
The Provision of Targeted Sports for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs  21	Amanda Mathers	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to access targeted sports sessions through Aiming High. Trampolining, coaching and multi-skills sessions.	£18,050.00	01-Apr-20	31-Mar-23	2 years	Monitoring meeting held termly (3 times per year). All KPI s are being met and level of satisfaction with children and their carers is high.	Families provide a financial contribution to both trampolining and Boccia sessions equating to approx. £1300 per annum. Positive outcomes include wellbeing, fitness, confidence, mobility, and core strength.
The Provision of Early Years Community Practitioners in Rutland - Bright Sparks Playgroup	Bright Sparks Playgroup at Empingham	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Early Years Community Practitioners <b>Grant</b> to increase the quality of community groups available for families with children under 5, to help enhance children's	£3,700.00	01-May-21	31-Mar-22	None	The offer is overseen by the Children Centre Senior Practitioner and reports to the Children's Centre Governance Group.	The provision of an early years session aimed at military families on St George's Barracks has been beneficial to families. Feedback has been positive with families

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
22			learning and development whilst engaging parents and carers in their child's learning.						scaling questions such as "My child has started to show an understanding of their feelings and those of others and begun to self-regulate." before and after the course. some parents scaling (0-10) improving by as much as 3 scale points and all parents scaling at least one point higher.
"The Provision of Early Years Community Practitioners in Rutland - Olivia Linnell t/a Home from Home	Olivia Linnell t/a Home from Home	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Early Years Community Practitioners Grant to increase the quality of community groups available for families with children under 5, to help enhance children's learning and	£7,400.00	01-May-21	31-Mar-22	None	The offer is overseen by the Children Centre Senior Practitioner and reports to the Children's Centre Governance Group.	30 families have enjoyed accessing these early years sessions. Giving children the opportunity to interact with others in a Covid safe environment. Feedback has

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
23			development whilst engaging parents and carers in their child's learning.						been positive including the following: For babies "(Her) Socialisation, build confidence with others" and for parents "It's given me a focus for my week and has supported my mental health a lot."
The Provision of Early Years Community Practitioners in Rutland	Pre-School Learning Alliance (Trading as Early Years Alliance)	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Early Years Community Practitioners Grant to increase the quality of community groups available for families with children under 5, to help enhance children's learning and development whilst engaging parents and carers in their child's learning.	£18,188.62	25-May-21	31-Mar-22	None		These sessions have given military and universal families the opportunity to access Covid safe groups. So far 39 children have benefited from the two sessions focused on improving children's communication and language and personal,

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
									social, and emotional skills. Feedback is positive with comments such as "He is much more sociable and confident" and "I am getting more sociable."
Education and Outdoor Visits Advice 4	Nottingham City Council	Learning and Skills	Administrative support and advisory service for schools' off-site educational visits.  This is offered to Rutland maintained schools only.	£1,057.00	01-Apr-21	31-Mar-22	None	Reporting of activity.  Note – this contract value may be reduced when one of the two remaining maintained schools converts to academy status; due this academic year so may not be in time for annual renewal of contract	This is highly specialised support requiring subject expertise not covered within L & S Service. In addition to planning and guidance for off-site visits for maintained schools, have supported schools with refund/insurance claims for cancelled visits during Covid.



CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
25 The Provision of the Services of a Childminding Agency	Rutland Early Years Agency Limited (REYAL)	Learning and Skills	Ongoing support and advice to all current and potential childminders in Rutland. Statutory duty S7 of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare for young children free of charge.	£9,000.00	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-22	None	Reporting of childminder numbers and quality assurance which impacts childcare sufficiency.  Note: The number of Ofsted registered childminders has reduced through COVID and its unlikely that this contract will be renewed at the current level.	This is a highly specialised support service for Ofsted registered childminders requiring Early Years guidance and expertise not covered within the L & S Service.
0-19 Healthy Child Programme	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)	Public Health	Public Health Nursing Services (Health visiting and school nursing services) including National Child Measurement Programme (CMP). The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is provided by	£1,942,820.00	01-Apr-17	31-Mar-22	The current service is due to end August 2022. An extension was agreed at Cabinet on 16 March 2021 for a further 5 months due to tight timescales and the	The 0-19 service specification requires joint working and close collaboration between the provider, the local authority commissioner, and NHS England/CCGs commissioners in relation to these	The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is the core, early intervention and prevention public health universal programme for children and families.

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
26			Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) known as 'Healthy Together'. Provision includes health visiting and school nursing services with a range of digital services including Chat Health texting service for parents and young people, Health for Under 5's, Health for Kids and Health for Teens Websites and web-based resources. The 0 to 11yrs element is mandated by NHSE and includes priorities such as maternal mental health , breastfeeding, healthy weight				<p>impact of Covid.</p> <p>It was agreed to jointly procure with Leicestershire County Council. The procurement will include a separate service specification for Rutland. 0-10/11 service will be commissioned as a separate lot, covering Leicestershire and Rutland counties</p> <p>The 11-19 (up to 25 for children with SEND) service will be a hybrid model; developed with RCC's</p>	responsibilities. Performance is measured against the Public Health and NHS Outcomes Frameworks. Quarterly Assurance Board meetings provide a high-level overview of the performance of the service for Leicestershire and Rutland with themed detailed reports and presentations. The Board is Chaired by a Consultant in Public Health.	Challenges with recruitment and retention of Public Health nurses has meant that the provider has to put in place a 'prioritisation plan. Covid has meant that the majority of service delivery has been virtual or a digital offer. The locality team work closely with the Children's Centre to deliver antenatal and post-natal support.

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
			and nutrition and lifestyles and is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).				Children's services.		
SACRE - Standard Advisory Council for Religious Education 27	Cambridgeshire County Council	Learning and Skills	SACRE Advisor, working for Cambridgeshire County Council's Curriculum, Teaching & Leadership Team, to ensure RCC supports local schools in meeting SACRE responsibilities.	£5,280.56	01-Apr-21	31-Mar-22	None	Review of Advisor activity through SACRE meetings 4 times a year and annual SACRE report.  Plus 4 meetings per year for agenda planning and review	This is highly specialised support which aligns to Rutland's partnership with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire for the development and implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. This is a statutory obligation RCC pays a proportionate of the contract in relation to its share of the workload

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
28									therefore making this more cost effective Value for money has been assured because the RCC share is proportionate to usage. The schools feel supported by having an agreed syllabus that they can use in schools
East Midlands Disagreement Resolution Services, Mediation Advice and Mediation Service	Global Mediation Ltd	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	Provision of Disagreement and Resolution Service for children with special educational needs.	Contract Management Cost £604.80 Cases approx. £12,000.00	01-May-19	30-Apr-22	1 year	Quarterly contract monitoring in place for the contract through the East Midlands regional contract management group.  The contract delivers well, is easily accessible and has no concerns at either	There is a legal requirement for families to have explored mediation prior to moving to a SEND Tribunal appeal. Whilst the current trend by parents, is to decline a mediation meeting, the requirement to provide the

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
								RCC or EM regional level.	service still stands. There is a drive across the EM region to increase the mediation uptake rates.
Visions Children's Centre - Website Support	Brimecome-Mills Creative Development	Early Intervention	Design and maintenance of the Visions Children's Centre website and regular updates with latest programme information for families.	£9,900.00	01-Aug-19	31-Jul-22	None	<p>Website information reviewed by the Children Centre Information Officer. Parental feedback gathered on the accessibility, relevance, and usefulness of the web information.</p> <p>Consideration being given to including this website support as part of the wider corporate website development.</p>	The website has been invaluable over the pandemic period in providing information and support to families at a time when face to face provision was limited. By using this service, the Childrens Centre team have enhanced its digital offer, has been able to easily update the website, adding almost double the amount of information from

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
									April 2020. With early years videos, activities, information, and links to further information.
The Provision of the Attendance Monitoring Service and ePEP System  30	Welfare Call (LAC) Limited	Learning and Skills (Virtual School)	Daily monitoring calls to mainstream schools and educational establishments for RCC's looked after children (including academies, independent pupil referral units, youth offending institutes, secure units, and residential units).	£11,269.44 subject to plus or minus 10% variation in the 2nd & 3rd year	01-Aug-19	31-Jul-22	None	Termly meetings with Welfare Call  Reporting to Corporate Parenting Board  Virtual School Annual Report	Instant access to live data regarding our CLA cohort: Attendance PEPs Attainment Exclusions PP+  First day - safeguarding follow up  Electronic PEP template – effective with all Designated Teachers – easy to QA  Access to instant reports

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
									Supports statutory duties
The Provision of a Family Group Conference Service in Rutland  31	David Smith T/A Joint Decisions	Long Term Team	To help families meet to discuss and resolve issues which are causing them difficulties or conflict (i.e., a parenting need or a care need).	£24,999.00	01-Aug-19	31-Jul-22	1+1 years		
Early Education Development Programme	Rutland Coaching Ltd	Learning and Skills	Development programme for early years providers through coaching, support, and training.	£9,240.00	09-Mar-20	28-Feb-22  Due to COVID the start of the programme was delayed and will now conclude in June 2022, at the end of the 2 year programme.	None	Termly meetings are attended by 14 Early Years Practitioners including teachers, managers, practitioners and childminders.	The project aims to build the confidence and capability of Early Education providers to plan and deliver improvement strategies and practice to the benefit of the sector.
ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity)	ADHD Solutions	Early Intervention,	An ADHD support and advice	£39,500.00	01-Apr-20	31-Mar-23	2 years	Quarterly monitoring	Well respected local

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
disorder) Support Services	Community Interest Company	SEND & Inclusion	service to the Aiming High Team, to help families with children and young people with ADHD.					meeting with the Early Help co-ordinator. All KPIs being met.	organisation with ADHD expertise supporting families across LLR. Families consistently report a better understanding of ADHD and ability to manage behaviours following advice and support.
32									
The Provision of Spot Purchase – Support for schools regarding children and young people with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)	ADHD Solutions Community Interest Company	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	The service is available to the 17 primary and 3 secondary schools in Rutland. The referrals are reviewed and coordinated by the Education Inclusion Partnership in conjunction with the SEN and Inclusion Officers at Rutland County Council.	£19,996.00	01-Apr-20	31-Mar-22	2 years	The resource is allocated through the Sector led Education Inclusion Partnership, (EIP) children's needs, once assessed as requiring intervention. The contract is managed by RCC, performance reports are presented to the	Supporting children, through use of the High Needs Budget as part of the SEND Recovery Plan.  90 children overall have received a package of EIP interventions across the commissioned services including this service



CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
								SEND Programme Board and Schools Forum.	
The Provision of Supporting Children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs in Rutland	Leicester City Council	Early Intervention	Provision of specialist teachers to support the effective education and inclusion of children and young people with social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs within Rutland schools.	£229,710.00	01-Sep-20	31-Aug-22	1 years	The resource is allocated through the Sector led Education Inclusion Partnership, children's needs, once assessed as requiring intervention. The contract is managed by RCC, and performance reports are presented to the SEND Programme Board and Schools Forum.	Supporting children as part of the Graduated Response prior to the need for an EHCP, through use of the High Needs Budget as part of the SEND Recovery Plan.  SEMH Teachers are linked to each Primary School to provide swift support and advice and coach staff.  Secondary support also commenced in Summer 2021. Schools report

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
									increased confidence in classroom practice.
The Provision of Educational Psychology Support for Rutland Children Looked After, Previously Looked After Children and Children with a Social Worker Services in Rutland	Partners in Psychology Limited	Learning and Skills (Virtual School)	Initial assessments for child looked after pupils and follow up monitoring and review/ personal education plan work.	£21,993.75	01-Sep-21	31-Aug-22	None	<p>Meeting with Educational Psychologists every 3 weeks – case management oversight</p> <p>Formal Assessments of CLA and reports produced</p> <p>Annual report produced</p> <p>Ongoing feedback from Designated Teachers, Children &amp; Young People and Foster Carers</p>	<p>Swift effective early intervention for CLA &amp; Care Leavers – additional layer of critical support for Childrens Social Care</p> <p>Valuable training for front line foster carers and Designated Teachers</p>
The Provision of Therapy for Children with Speech, Language and	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	The service will ensure education staff in Rutland schools have the confidence and	£110,748.00	05-Jul-21	31-Aug-22	1+1 years	The resource is overseen by the EIP Coordinator, and reports on performance	Supporting children, through use of the High Needs Budget as

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
35 Communication Needs in Rutland			skills to support students with language needs at all levels, and will also provide children and families with direct support					reports to the SEND Programme Board and Schools Forum. The contract with LPT is managed by RCC.	part of the SEND Recovery Plan. A Senior Practitioner provides 3 days a week, communication, and language focussed support to schools and Early Years , (EY) provision. Tailored advice prioritised for EY settings and Secondary schools in the first instance in creating communicating friendly environments since poor language acquisition affects children's ability to access the curriculum and can be misdiagnosed as SEND needs.

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
36 The Provision of Early Bird Pilot Plus Project	Futures in Mind	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	The programme aims to promote a consistent approach across settings to enable parents/carers and professionals to support CYP at risk of exclusion by increasing Autism knowledge.	£4,950.00	01-Sep-21	31-Dec-21	None	The resource is allocated through the Sector led Education Inclusion Partnership, children's needs, once assessed as requiring intervention. The contract is managed by RCC, performance reports are presented to the SEND Programme Board and Schools Forum.	Supporting children, through use of the High Needs Budget as part of the SEND Recovery Plan.  The first sessions have commenced
The Provision of Therapeutic Interventions for Children and Young People in Rutland	Futures in Mind	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	To support children and young people who are at increased risk of exclusion linked to the impact on learning, attainment, behaviour, self -	£4,999.00	01-Sep-21	31-Jul-22	None	The resource is allocated through the Sector led Education Inclusion Partnership, children's needs, once assessed as requiring	Supporting children, through use of the High Needs Budget as part of the SEND Recovery Plan.  90 children overall have

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
37			esteem, inclusion, independence, and long-term life prospects by using evidenced based interventions					intervention. The contract is managed by RCC, performance reports are presented to the SEND Programme Board and Schools Forum.	received a package of EIP interventions across the commissioned services including this service.
The Provision of Foster the Future	Leicester City Football Club (Leicester City in the Community)	Learning and Skills Service (Virtual School)	To support care experienced young people in Rutland through mentoring, enrichment opportunities, transition support, and social action.	£4,167.00	06-Sep-21	18-Jul-22	None	Weekly meetings with LCFC in the community Inspire Coach  Monthly meetings with Education Manager from LCFC in the community  Termly monitoring report	Foster the Future' supports care experienced young people in Rutland through mentoring, enrichment opportunities, transition support, and social action. Leicester City in the Community (LCitC) deliver a programme of activities ('the Programme') as part of this SLA to identified

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
									pupils from KS1 through to KS4 who require additional support or are at risk of becoming disengaged.
The Provision of Independent Advocacy Support for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities in Rutland	School Development Support Agency	Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion	To support children and young people with special educational needs / disabilities to feel supported to express their views and aspirations and to have their voice heard during the education health and care, (EHC) assessment process and in their EHC Plans.	£21,000.00	01-Sep-21	31-Aug-22	1+1 years	Quarterly monitoring meeting planned in line with SENDIASS contract. Contract recently commenced.	Voice of child is central to all children's services at RCC. CYP (including Rutland Disabled Youth Forum who are helping to shape the service) have expressed a need for this support to ensure those with SEND are supported to express their views and to have control of their EHC Plan.
The Provision of Education Inclusion Partnership Co-	Caroline Emma Crisi	Early Intervention,	To develop and coordinate Education and	£130,000.00	01-Sep-21	31-Aug-23	None	The coordinator resource reports	Monthly sector led Panels facilitated; 90

CYP contracts due to end in the next 2 years (31.12.2023)									
Contract	Provider	Area of Children's Services it sits under	Description	Value	Start date of contract	End date of contract	Extensions provided for	Contract management & oversight	Value for Money
Ordinator Services in Rutland		SEND & Inclusion	Inclusion Partnerships (EIP) in Rutland at both primary and secondary phases.					to the SEND Programme Board and to Schools Forum. The contract is managed by RCC	children assessed, and action plans developed, service packages actioned. Twice yearly evaluation reports received.

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## CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

### Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Families

#### SEND Recovery Plan Projects: Update

Strategic Aim:	Creating a brighter future for all.		
Exempt Information		No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:		Mr David Wilby Portfolio Holder Education and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Service, Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion	01572 720943 bcaffrey@rutland.gov.uk	
	Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director Children and Families	01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk	
Ward Councillors	All		

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Note the progress and emerging impact of the SEND Recovery Plan group of projects.
2. Endorse the actions planned to continue to positively impact the High Needs Budget deficit.

#### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Following a report to Child Scrutiny Committee in March 2021 relating to wider SEND and Inclusion. This report focusses on the inclusionary offer for children with SEND and the actions in place to develop confidence in inclusion of the SEND sector wide system and workforce and to address the growing demand for services and increased pressure on the Delegated Schools Grant, (DSG) High Needs Budget, (HNF)
- 1.2 Rutland's vision is to support all children and young people with SEND to lead healthy, independent, and safe lives, to be a County that promotes inclusion, to maximise their opportunities to be independent and focuses on their abilities not their disabilities and wherever possible, have their needs met locally. (Rutland SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019).
- 1.3 The SEND and Inclusion Service priorities reflect Rutland's Children and Young

## 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Council receives ring fenced funding for High Needs from Government as part of the DSG. This funding can be supplemented through transferring funding from other DSG blocks including the Schools Block (0.5% can be transferred with approval from Schools Forum) and any transfer over 0.5% must be approved by the Secretary of State.
- 2.2 The High Needs block funding meets the costs of place and top-up funding for institutions meeting the needs of children to access specialist services or expertise commissioned by the local authority. It does not meet the costs associated with legal challenge, assessment costs, travel costs etc.
- 2.3 The projected financial deficit on DSG by March 2022, is predicted to be in the region of £822k. The High Needs cumulative deficit is projected to be about £1m. There has been additional Government funding over the last few years, but this hasn't kept pace with either inflation or been in line with the growing demand driven by parental choice.
- 2.4 Despite funding increasing over the last few years, the Council is carrying a deficit on High Needs funding. The School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2020 (which came into force in February 2020) are clear that **"LAs will not be permitted to fund any part of the deficit from sources other than DSG (and any specific grants whose conditions allow them to be applied to the schools budget) without the authorisation of the Secretary of State"**. In theory, the Council could apply to use its General Fund to subsidise costs, but this is not considered an option.
- 2.5 The Council's deficit and projections are that by the end the financial year the deficit will be in excess of £1m with this growing by c£500k per annum. Further details of the financial position can be found in Section 3, (Financial Implications below)
- 2.6 Whilst we continue to run a deficit, costs will be met by Schools (local authorities have no legal responsibility in this area) which means that while this continues schools are footing the bill.
- 2.7 Consequently, any deficit must be recovered over time. The DSG conditions of grant require that any local authority (LA) with an overall deficit on its DSG account must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.
- 2.8 Local Authorities in this situation are strongly encouraged to have a management plan in place, Rutland has the SEND Recovery Plan overseen by the SEND Programme Board and reporting regularly to Schools Forum (SF). This plan was set in action following a Summit with schools in November 2018 and included all schools and other education providers, setting out the challenges and potential solutions. Following this, decisive action was taken, and Schools Forum agreed to commit £357k over a 5-year plan to change practice, start to halt the rise in year-on-year financial pressures and demand on special provision, and to begin to address the budget deficit.
- 2.9 Success measures for this type of work, regionally, are predicated on reducing the need for any local authorities' use of independent school places, review, and reform

of the 'Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) offer'. In Rutland the SEND Recovery Plan projects are particularly focused on:

- reviewing and reforming early years pathways,
- reforming commissioning practices to address sufficiency problems and
- action to help schools reduce inaccurate identification of children wrongly labelled as having SEND which can otherwise lead to underachievement, sometimes due to a poorly designed or taught curriculum.

The SEND Recovery plan includes actions to motivate schools to utilise a Graduated Assessment response when children's needs appear to be escalating, all of the SEND Recovery plan projects are designed to build confidence, skills, expertise, and capacity in and alongside mainstream schools' staff with the goal being sustainable skill sets for leaders and school teams.

The key question is, will the implementation of the SEND Recovery Plan ensure that the deficit is recovered over time? As section 3 shows, the answer to this question is no. Section 3 does show that the interventions made by the Council have made a positive impact on the finances surrounding the High Needs Block, but due to significant increases in demand the position will not be recovered.

The issue is a national one and Rutland's position is not different to many authorities in that demand for services are outstripping the funding available. The DfE has announced that the consultation on the revised Funding of the High Needs system should be out in the new year (no date has been specified) this will ultimately determine whether the deficit will be recovered.

#### Department for Education-High Needs Capital Allocation Funding

- 2.10 Part of the SEND Recovery plan is to grow the capability and capacity of Secondary schools for 'what is ordinarily available in local schools. The Department for Education (DfE) have provided Capital grant funding programmes to help increase mainstream school places and maintain children with SEND in mainstream provision locally. RCC are working with our parent representative group to build reassurance among parents and building inclusion confidence in local school's transition arrangements. A new development, working with Uppingham Community College as a lead partner, with a working title for the facilities of 'Mainstream plus' provision is aiming to enable more children with EHC plans, (EHCPs) to transition from Primary education effectively and thrive in local mainstream Secondary phase education.

#### Nurture Evidence Based Practice

- 2.11 Nurture practice, based on attachment theory, has been piloted successfully in Rutland in partnership with Edith Weston Primary School part of the Brooke Hill Academy Trust. Nurture interventions are evidence-based programmes for specific children to increase their emotional wellbeing, intended for primary school children who have difficulties coping in mainstream classes and may be at risk of underachievement and disrupting their education and that of others. They support children's mental health and wellbeing and can lead to improved self-esteem and enhanced school achievement and attainment.

- 2.12 The Nurture pilot was initially designed to support up to 6 students yearly on site at Edith Weston and further equip Rutland primary schools to confidently assess attachment needs and help build the confidence of all schools to provide Nurture practice and interventions on their own school site, in order to specifically prevent children's exclusion or escalation out of the mainstream school system. One of the children assisted through a Nurture intervention moved from a high-cost placement (circa £75 k yearly)
- 2.13 In September 2021 Schools Forum received a report detailing the impact over the 16 months of the Nurture pilot including through the pandemic restrictions. **16** individual children and their associated schools had been supported with Nurture interventions. **9** received (or continue to receive) on site interventions (agreed through the multi-agency panel) and **7** children through outreach support from the Nurture hub staff.
- 2.14 RCC are developing an agreement with Edith Weston to bring Nurture into standard practice. This will secure these successful interventions for Rutland and focus on further propagating sustainable Nurture practice across Rutland schools.

#### Supporting children with Social Emotional or Mental Health needs from escalating

- 2.15 The range of projects within the SEND Recovery Plan, are delivering a number of initiatives new to Rutland, and which are intended to increase capacity within mainstream schools by assisting schools and other education providers, to act early where they see a child's social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs are escalating and put in place support or evidence-based interventions that may prevent children moving into the SEND system and thus help children to continue successfully in mainstream education without the need for an EHCP
- 2.16 Specialist SEMH teachers are linked to schools as the first place to raise any concerns about any children's needs and get expert input prior to any case level work being commissioned through the Education Inclusion Partnership (EIP).
- 2.17 The Education Inclusion Partnership draws on existing Rutland resources and commissions interventions where there is a gap in services, it has purchased interventions such as specialist tutoring, specialist counselling, speech and language therapy, additional specific psychological interventions. This is detailed in the Toolkit of Resources, clearly outlined, and regularly updated for schools to make services easy to find on the Local Offer site.
- 2.18 A Primary Phase Panel meets monthly to allocate resources for cases that need specific action- a coordination and assessment function helps make sure these are targeted and manages the process to activate resources.
- 2.19 **100** children have now been considered through this sector led panel process. In time schools will have the knowledge, skills, confidence, and expertise to activate resources with an improved understanding of need and without the need for a panel and may be able to commission directly from their own funds or pool resources directly. All primary schools are now activating resources through the panel for particular cases with parental consent.
- 2.20 There is universal acclaim for the work of this schools led partnership, feedback is collected three times a year, most recently in Summer 2021.

- 2.21 Secondary Phase targeted work is also seeing an impact, with significantly reduced exclusions at Catmose, for example, which can be attributed to the work in partnership.
- 2.22 A senior Speech, Language and Communication provides 3 days a week from Leicestershire Primary Trust (LPT). This specialist has begun building relationships with Early Years settings and coaching friendly communicating environment skills in order to impact avoidable language delay. This is to supplement statutory work and to work at a lower level of need, for example, facilitating individual or group work for vocabulary, social use of language. They are also beginning work with Secondary School teams.
- 2.23 A Provider Group meets monthly to ensure not only EIP funded but wider services are coordinated and cohesive and that there is good communication and no duplication between providers
- 2.24 The Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) network has developed with the support of Rutland Learning Trust and the Education Inclusion Partnership Coordinator to identify gaps in skills and knowledge and is working with a Regional Whole School SEND programme over the remaining years of its operation to help promote evidence-based practice in inclusion and shape a sustainable learning network for Schools SENCo at Primary and Secondary phase.
- 2.25 Work to examine Value for Money and review Early Years pathways in partnership with The Parks provision and Oakham Primary School has been progressing. This is designed to share and expand inclusionary practice in the Early Years sector. SEND Consultancy, a team of SEND education experts, are working to flesh out visioning work undertaken in partnership to explore an inclusive model of provision for the early years pathway.

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications shown below are the implications on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which although the Council do hold and manage, deficits are not to be covered by Council's Finances.
- 3.2 The Council do produce a High Needs Recovery Plan to help manage the deficit on the high needs block. This is in the process of being updated to reflect revised assumptions around funding increases and the impact of the interventions.
- 3.3 The current modelling if no interventions are made is shown in the table below

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
High Needs DSG B/Fwd Deficit / (Surplus)	457	575	1,028	1,734	2,648
Transfer From Schools Block	(126)	(132)	(132)	(132)	(132)
High Needs Allocation*	(4,224)	(4,579)	(4,976)	(5,225)	(5,486)
Placement costs	4,468	5,164	5,814	6,271	6,823
<b>High Needs DSG C/Fwd Deficit / (Surplus)</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>3,853</b>
<b>Recovery Plan Impact</b>			<b>(33)</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>(135)</b>

- 3.4 Due to the high level of demand in the SEND service – requests for education health and care assessments, (EHCA), and the increasing numbers of Education Health and Care Plans, (EHCPs), the Council are seeing the SEND Recovery Plan is unlikely to address any of the current deficit (£1.028m) and will only go part way to mitigating the new demand coming through the system. The initial SEND Recovery Plan showed a saving of £135k by 24/25. It is expected that with the success of the interventions para 3.5 the revised model will show an improvement against this.
- 3.5 On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 there were 260 EHCP's in place, this has increased by 14 (5.4%) to date this year with an additional 18 requests for a EHCP assessment. If all of these go on to require support that would equate to a 12% increase in demand this year
- 3.6 The Council has agreed a number of actions with Schools Forum as part of the Council's SEND Recovery Plan. The table below shows the intervention and the basis of the business case

Provision	Business Case Basis	Current Position
Nurture Provision (para 2.13 – 2.16)	Assumes 1 independent place saving and 2 maintained special school place saving (£113k)	Exceeded expectation. Provision was designed to support 6 children and has supported 16. Crucially at least 1 of these children would be in a high-cost placement.
Education Inclusion Partnerships (EIP) (para 2.18 – 2.27)	Assume 3 placement decrease in specialist provision, 15 decrease in academy mainstream (£279k)	See 3.7

- 3.7 The success of these projects is also subject to several influencing factors including the commitment of schools to engage, test and commit to alternative approaches and parental preference not to pursue an EHCP even when a school do not necessarily support this.
- 3.8 The largest project is the EIP and the impact this has had is:
- 3.8.1 The EIP panel process has assessed 90 children to October 2021. Of the 90 only those where there has been sufficient time and progress since referral were included in further analysis. Of these, 50 (56%) were deemed to be at high risk of progressing to need an EHCP at the start of the intervention.
- 3.8.2 Of this group of 50 high-risk children looked likely to be considered to require an EHCP, 38 were predicted to need 32.5 hours or weekly support and 12 to need 25 hours of support over a 38-week school year. The first £6k of a child's costs for support are notionally available in schools' budgets already, so this £6k have been removed accordingly from calculations.
- 3.8.3 Using this format to predict overall annual cost of providing support hours

for these 50 children if they had escalated into EHCPs indicates that potential pressure created by this group may have been in the region of £350,978 annually.

3.8.4 Further information and methodology for this analysis can be found at Appendix A

3.9 As you will note, the level of demand for specialist places would have been significantly higher than the current number if the interventions of the SEND Recovery Plan had not been in place.

### 3.10 Mainstream Top-up Rates

3.10.1 To further add to the pressure on the schools block, Schools Forum have asked the Council to review its funding rates to mainstream provision. The rates paid to schools have been in place for a significant period of time and not reviewed since 2015.

3.10.2 The Council does have the final say on determining rates, best practice is to consult with Schools Forum.

3.10.3 The High Needs Funding Guidance states that “local authorities must treat those placed in maintained provision, in academies and free schools, in the further education (FE) sector, and in non-maintained and independent provision on a fair and equivalent basis when making arrangements for funding young people with high needs”. The Council has seen increases in non-mainstream provision due to the way places are commissioned over the same period, under the guidance the Council will have to inflate the rates paid to mainstream schools.

3.10.4 The Council are consulting with schools forum on using CPI as a basis from 2015 to 2021. The additional cost of the current cohort would result in an additional c£170k being added to the deficit per annum.

## 4 CONSULTATION

4.1 Rutland Parent Carer Voice provide monthly input to system change developments; members attended the Summit at the beginning of November 2021. They are part of a task and finish group considering alternative resource allocation funding formula work over the Winter 2021-2 for EHCP plans.

## 5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 RCC are strongly advised by the DfE, to have a robust management plan in place to address system changes required. The SEND Recovery Plan is our management plan.

## 6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Local authorities must carry out their functions with a view to identifying all the children and young people in their area who have or may have SEN or have or may have a disability (Section 22 of the Children and Families Act 2014).

6.2 The Local Authority and its partners have a number of key statutory obligations to

children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs, which includes, identification in the early years, the delivery of early and targeted support and the provision of specialist provision.

- 6.3 The Children and Families Act and Care Act 2014 places greater emphasis and importance on giving children with disabilities and their carer's greater choice and control in the support they need.
- 6.4 The Commissioning team and Legal and Governance services have been engaged in elements of this Plan throughout and agree to the course of action described in this report.
- 6.5 Update on progress and impact of the SEND Recovery Plan is reported at each Children and Young People's Partnership meeting and to School Forum.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 The DfE SEND High Need provision Capital Grant (HNPCA), Grant, has enabled new SEND provision on school sites, with the creation of an Enhanced Resourced Unit at Uppingham Community College and a Nurture provision at Edith Weston school. A needs analysis is underway to inform how to utilise the remaining capital grant.

## **8 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 Local authorities are required to ensure their services are accessible to disabled people, to promote equality for disabled people, and to encourage their participation in public life.

## **10 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Children with disabilities by the nature of their disability and associated behaviours may pose a threat to themselves, their family, and members of their community. Their assessment and care plan will consider if this is a safeguarding risk or risk to the young person of entering the criminal justice system.

## **11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Practitioners and families will be aware of the particular vulnerabilities of disabled children. Disabled children are three to four times more likely than non-disabled children to be abused or neglected. They are more susceptible to bullying and to mental health disorders. Their families are more susceptible to higher levels of stress, lower levels of parental wellbeing and poverty. It is therefore particularly important that Rutland County Council provides good services to these families and that the services are provided with appropriate safeguards.
- 11.2 It is intended through the interventions described above that children will have their SEND needs identified and responded to appropriately and within the LA's statutory duties. The systemic development work associated with this programme will enable



the service to also respond to children's needs early, and therefore reduce the risk of children escalating into specialist SEND and into specialist mental health services such as CAMHS, which are already under increasing pressure to meet assessment and therapy timescales.

## **12 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There has been an unprecedented rise in demand for SEND support and assessments and EHC Plans. The increase in demand is being replicated regionally and nationally.
- 12.2 The SEND services are adopting new ways of working to respond to increased demand and trends in the SEND system, and to respond to the anticipated change as a result of the national review of the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and the anticipated new SEND Ofsted Inspection Framework.

## **13 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- 13.1 In working with schools and other education providers, the Recovery Plan projects are designed to underpin early action when children's social, emotional, or mental health needs start to escalate, and shape excellent inclusionary practice to prevent children needing EHCPs. There is evidence that the projects are assisting schools to act early where they see a child's social emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs are escalating and put in place support or evidence-based interventions that may prevent children moving into the SEND system and grow parent and carer confidence and belief that collaborative working across the SEND sector in Rutland, is meeting the needs of their children and young people.
- 13.2 This in turn enables children to continue successfully in mainstream education without the need for an EHCP and reduces the associated financial pressures.

## **14 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **THAT THE COMMITTEE:**

- 14.1 Note the progress and emerging impact of the SEND Recovery Plan group of projects.
- 14.2 Endorse the actions planned to continue to positively impact the High Needs Budget deficit

## **15 THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND PAPERS TO THE REPORT**

## **16 APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Education Inclusion Partnership Panel Case Analysis And Methodology

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

## **Appendix A - Education Inclusion Partnership Panel Case Analysis And Methodology**

Between 24/02/2020 and 13/09/2021, 90 individual children's situations were reviewed by the EIP coordinator and presented to the EIP panel. The EIP coordinator deemed 64 (71%) of these to be at high risk of escalating to an EHCNA. There was consistent data available for 50 of this group, and this is the group of children that have been analysed in the main body of the report.

This analysis reviewed children's risk at the beginning of the intervention to otherwise progress to an EHCNA, and their likelihood of then either receiving full- or part-time TA hours should they have been assessed as needing an EHCP after that stage.

The costs provided to schools for TA hours is currently £11.26. The school year is 38 weeks, and the authority does not pay the first £6k costs since this is notionally included in schools budgets already. 38 children in this analysis were deemed likely to need 32.5 hours and 12 children likely to need 25 hours. This gives us a benchmark by which to determine the impact of the EIP on this specific group of children.

With the experience of the coordinator's assessment of children at the start of the intervention, it's possible to see from the data, as may have been predicted that children who show most successful outcome from EIP involvement were the ones assessed at the start as not needing an EHCNA.

For 21 of the 50 children where there was consistent data available, the EIP has had a high or very positive impact, and for 18 further children in this group, the EIP is continuing to improve outcomes; they may have required additional interventions, but an EHCP is still not deemed appropriate.

The EIP has had limited impact and other pathways appropriate for 6 children in this group of 50 analysed, and for the remaining 5 children, extra support has been found to be required and they may progress ultimately to an EHCP.

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 21/22

Meeting Date	Publication Date	Proposed Item	Why	Format
<b>24 Jun 21</b>	<b>17 Jun</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Input into the new Rutland Children and Young People's Strategic Plan / Children's service offer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an update on the development of the Rutland Children and Young People's Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Present an overview of the key priorities and the intended outcomes.</li> </ul>	The Children's Service offer will inform the strategic plan.	Presentation and workshop by Interim DCS and Transformation and Assurance Lead
		<b>Item 2:</b> Review and approval of the annual work plan	Forward Planning	Report

		<b>Item 3:</b> Election of vice chair	-	-
		<b>Item 4:</b> Q4 KPI (April – March)		Report from Business Intelligence Manager
<b>30 Sep 21</b>	<b>22 Sep 21</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Election of vice chair	-	-
		<b>Item 2:</b> Impact of COVID on educational outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What steps are being considered / taken to address academic catch up?</li> <li>• What steps are being considered / taken to provide mental-health support for our young people.</li> </ul>	Source, annual work plan  Public Concern	Written report from Head of Learning and Skills
		<b>Item 3:</b> Update from Children's Services	Progress report on OFSTED report	Presentation from Head of Service - Children's

		Improvement Board		Social Care
		<b>Item 4:</b> Q1 KPI (April – June)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager
<b>16 Dec 21</b>	<b>8 Dec 21</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Review of Commissioned Services and Youth Offending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and costs of current CYP commissioned services and start / renewal date.</li> <li>• How oversight is managed / has contract been met? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What flexibility does the service provide?</li> <li>- Value for money against what has been delivered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Proposed during scrutiny meeting 26/09/2020.	Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion, Head of Children's Social Care and Head of Commissioning

		<b>Item 2:</b> SEND Recovery plan projects update	Budgetary and wellbeing concerns	Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion
		<b>For information only:</b> Q2 KPI (July – September)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager
<b>26 Jan 22</b>	<b>18 Jan</b>	<b>ITEM: Joint Scrutiny of the Budget</b>	Statutory	Report from Director - Resources
<b>24 Feb 22</b>	<b>17 Feb</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Development of Family Hubs and the Early Help Offer	Budgetary and wellbeing concerns	Report from Head of Early Help SEND and Inclusion
		<b>Item 2:</b> Domestic Abuse Strategy: update	Legislation Change and wellbeing concerns	Report from Director
		<b>For information only:</b> Q3 KPI (October - December)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager

<b>21 Apr 22</b>	<b>14 Apr</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Children's Services: Update including Self- Assessment	Public Concer n	Report from Director
		<b>Item 2:</b> Update on action plans following CQC review of health services for children looked after and safeguarding in Rutland including an update on children and dentistry services. (Following up from joint scrutiny meeting on the 21/01/2021)	Public Concer n	Jan Harrison Designate d Nurse Safeguardi ng Clinical Commissi oning Group (CCG) Neil King Head of Safeguardi ng Leicesters hire Partnershi p NHS Trust (LPT) Michael Clayton Head of Safeguardi ng University Hospitals Leicester (UHL)

		<b>For information only:</b> Q4 KPI (January - March)	For Information	Report from Business Intelligence Manager
<b>Forward Planning</b>				
<p><b>KPI update:</b> Throughout the year the KPI data for the previous quarter will be circulated directly to the Committee Members. Scrutiny chair will discuss with the Committee to determine if there is anything that is of concern and warrants further action.</p>				

<b>Items Distributed to Scrutiny for Information</b>
<p><b>August</b>  DSG SEND Recovery Plan Update – from Schools’ Forum</p> <p>Final draft of the Children’s Services offer – final discussion and approval</p>



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 December 2021

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE AS AT END OF QUARTER TWO

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	Protecting the vulnerable	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Jonathan Weller, Business Intelligence Manager	01572 758233 jweller@rutland.gov.uk
	Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director for Children's Services	01572 758358 dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes year-to-date performance information as at the end of quarter two (April – September) 2021-22.

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT


























- 1.1 This report provides a table showing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for children's services for consideration and comment by the committee. Key points related to the data are also discussed in a summary commentary.



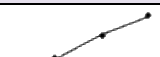

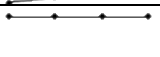

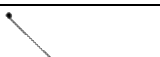
## 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The table shows performance against this year's target using a red/amber/green system, along with a trend line showing the last four quarterly positions.
- 2.2 Some measures are included to provide a picture of current demand for services and therefore no targets or trends are shown.

## 3 PERFORMANCE DATA

- 3.1 Table showing 2021-22 performance as at end of quarter two (April – September).

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 end of Q2	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
<b>Contacts and referrals</b>					
Number of contacts received	1,524	690	-	-	-
Number of referrals received	248	64	-	-	-
% of re-referrals within last 12 months	38%	16%	25%		
<b>Assessments</b>					
Number of single assessments	261	83	-	-	-
% single assessments completed within 45 days	91%	99%	90%		
% children seen as part of an assessment	92%	100%	95%		
Number of CSE cases	9	0	-	-	-
Number of children missing from home/care episodes	27	2	-	-	-
<b>Virtual visits</b>					
% of statutory visits carried out virtually ( <i>started March 2020 due to covid-19</i> )	17%	6%	-	-	-
<b>Children in need (CIN)</b>					
Number of CIN	85	29	-	-	-
% CIN seen in timescale	99%	100%	90%		
% CIN reviews completed in timescale	80%	93%	90%		
<b>Child protection (CP)</b>					
Number of CP cases	8	10	-	-	-
% children subject to CP plan seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		
% CP reviews on time	100%	75%	100%		
% core groups held on time	97%	100%	100%		
<b>Children looked after (CLA)</b>					
Number of CLA Cases	35	22	-	-	-
% CLA seen in timescale	100%	100%	100%		
% CLA reviews on time	93%	98%	100%		
% of children placed in non-LA placements	31%	50%	40%		
Number of in-house fostering households	11	10	-	-	-
<b>Care leavers</b>					
% Care leavers in appropriate accommodation	100%	100%	100%		

Service/ KPI name	2020-21 outturn	2021-22 end of Q2	2021-22 target		Trend – last four quarters
% Care leavers in EET	79%	85%	80%		
% Care leavers we are in touch with	100%	100%	100%		
<b>Early Help and SEND</b>					
Number of current active early help cases (children)	95	67	-	-	-
% of all cases closed in year stepped up to social care	14%	0%	5%		
Total number of children open to CWD	15	11	-	-	-
<b>Education inclusion partnership</b>					
Number of referrals since launch ( <i>launched Feb 2020</i> )	55	90	-	-	-
<b>RCC Staff</b>					
Children's Services staff turnover rate	3.7%	7.6%	-	-	-

## 4 COMMENTARY

- 4.1 Improved re-referral rates (16% compared to 38% last year) are a feature of current performance, although there was an increase in quarter two. Audits of re-referrals continue and find that threshold applications are generally correct. Any learnings from audits are applied to practice and will remain a focus to sustain the improvement seen this year. For comparison, re-referral rates average 26% regionally and 23% nationally.
- 4.2 Assessments completed in timescale stand at 99% (82 out of 83), continuing the long-term trend of improvement. A live data reporting system and management scrutiny is helping to sustain this performance level. The English average for assessment completion is 84% within timescale.
- 4.3 Children seen as part of an assessment has again been 100%, after dropping below target last year due to differences in the recording of virtual home visits during lockdown. Social workers continue to be supported to engage with children and families safely and there has been an increase in children having face to face visits this year.
- 4.4 Just two child 'missing' episodes have occurred this year, compared to 27 in the whole of last year and 24 the year before that. The 27 and 24 previous missing episodes were mainly in relation to two children looked after. One of these children was successfully reunited with her family and this resulted in significant reduction in risk-taking behaviours including going missing. The second looked after child is experiencing better placement stability and has developed meaningful positive relationships with his social worker. The two missing episodes this year are in relation to a child looked after who has not wanted to remain in foster placement and has repeatedly returned home and to her local community to reside with family members. An assessment of appropriate family members who can offer adequate care is currently being completed.

- 4.5 Children in need (CIN) seen within timescale is 100% (29 out of 29); following the 98% achieved the previous quarter. This continues the trend of improvement from last year, helped by continued management oversight and use of a live data reporting system. CIN reviews completed within timescale hit the 90% target. Earlier in the year, several reviews outside of timescale included some avoidable mistakes relating to date and diary planning. This was addressed with individual social workers and performance during August and September improved to 100% for this KPI.
- 4.6 All children subject to a child protection plan were seen in timescale and all core groups were held on time for the fourth consecutive quarter. Our current child protection case number is one of the lowest in the country.
- 4.7 Children looked after (CLA) seen in timescale is currently 100%, meeting target and maintaining the standard set last year. CLA in non-local authority placements is currently 50% (11 children out of 22). This is outside our 40% target and includes an unaccompanied child asylum seeker in special provision outside of Rutland. CLA reviews held on time is 98% this year (48 out of 49), the one review missing target being in April. This continues a long-term improvement trend (93% last year, 84% the year before). Our CLA rate per 10,000 children is 28, the lowest rate in England. For comparison, the regional and national averages are 61 and 67 per 10,000 children.
- 4.8 100% of care leavers are in appropriate accommodation. The regional and national averages for this KPI are 87% and 85%. The accommodation ranges from semi-independent living, social housing and flat shares to private rentals
- 4.9 85% of care leavers (34 out of 40) are currently in employment, education or training, making Rutland the best performing local authority in England for this KPI. This improves on the milestone set in quarter one, where we hit our own challenging 80% target for the first time in almost two years. For comparison, the regional average for care leavers in EET is 50% and the national average 53%.
- 4.10 The percentage of early help cases closed and stepped up to social care this year is 0%. Just one case was stepped up in the last 12 months, where the appropriate threshold had been met.
- 4.11 Information on the number of referrals to education inclusion partnership (EIP) is now included in this report. All primary schools are included, and referrals remain more prevalent in years 4, 5 and 6. Of the 90 referrals, 68 related to boys and 22 girls. Most referrals continue to be based on social, emotional and mental health or autism needs, a smaller number being for ADHD and 'other' reasons. Following a pilot period of secondary EIP support, a total of 13 'high risk' cases are being supported across the three secondary schools. Partner services such as educational psychologist services are being used to deliver interventions in a cost-effective way.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The number of children looked after can have a significant impact on the council's budget. As a result of improved social care practice, the number of children looked after has reduced over the past 12 months resulting in a forecasted underspend at quarter two in relation to this area of the Children's budget of c£150k for the year.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no legal and governance considerations.

## **9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

## **10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

## **11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no community safety implications.

## **12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

## **13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 It is recommended that the committee continues to receive a regular performance report on children's services which will enable them to consider performance in key areas and areas for further scrutiny.

## **14 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

## **15 APPENDICES**

- 15.1 There are no appendices.

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