



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of the **MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held via Zoom on Thursday, 24th February, 2022 at 7.00 pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor N Begy

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children and Families
Bernadette Caffrey Head of Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion
Jane Narey Scrutiny Officer (Clerk)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Councillor Ainsley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Begy.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on the 16th December 2021 and the 26th January 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared

4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received

5 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice from members were received

6 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion from members were received

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

No matters were received for call in

8 DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY HUBS AND THE EARLY HELP OFFER

Report No. 43/2022 was received from Bernadette Caffrey, Head of Early Intervention, SEND and Inclusion. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The report updated members on the national and local Family Hub Programme and noted opportunities and actions to develop this in Rutland.
- Officer time for the Family Hub Programme was not anticipated to be excessive but the collation of documentation and the engagement in key meetings would be required.
- A 'Project Manager' had been recruited to undertake this work and their sole focus would be on the development of the family hub.
- Development of a communication plan regarding communication with the public would be one of the first key priorities for the Project Manager.
- Once the feasibility study was completed, the next step would be thinking about the model and the consultation behind it.
- Work around the potential location of the Family Hub was ongoing and this would link in with Council's asset review.
- The Children's Centre had been suggested as a possible site but it had been assessed as too small and the site was already used to capacity.
- The Project Manager had made links with colleagues regarding the Local Plan but this development was still in the early stages so there was currently no definitive answer regarding possible locations.
- The delivery plan for the Family Hub would link in with the Rutland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The Strategic Director for Children and Families confirmed that the £40k funding was for the recruitment of the Project Manager on a 12-month fixed term contract.
- No future funding had been identified for the programme so everything was modelled on the basis of known available resources and developing a sustainable model for the future.

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the development of a national and local Family Hub programme and **NOTED** the opportunities and actions to develop a Family Hub for Rutland.

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The Head of Early Help, SEND and Inclusion left the meeting at 7.44 pm

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9 DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY: UPDATE

Report No. 44/2022 was received from Dawn Godfrey, Strategic Director for Children's Services. During discussion, the following points were noted:

- The report raised awareness of the Local Authority's responsibilities and duties following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which came into force in October 2021. The report also presented the findings from the Local Strategic Needs Assessment and provided opportunity to review the subsequent Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Councillors welcomed the fact that children would now be recognised as a 'victim' of domestic abuse. They stated that this recognition was long overdue and that it was a valuable step in the right direction.
- It was reported that Rutland had a lower number of domestic abuse cases compared to neighbouring authorities. This could be due to under reporting or 'hidden victims' that the Council were not aware of. Targeted campaigning within communities would help promote the reporting of domestic abuse issues.
- Victims of domestic abuse often moved away from the perpetrator which could result in the adult/child losing access to the schools, services and people they were used to within their local area. However, work was ongoing to change this moving forward. Consideration needed to be taken regarding any disruption to normal life when supporting children so work was being done regarding options to move the perpetrator rather than the victim(s).
- The Director confirmed that the locations of all 'safe accommodation' were confidential and that the police and support services had safeguarding plans in place should any issues arise.
- All Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Orders would be dealt with through the courts.
- The Safer Rutland Partnership Board and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board provided the strategic leadership and governance for the work on domestic abuse in Rutland. The Vulnerability Executive provided the leadership across the whole of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). Members included representatives from Leicestershire Police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, all three local authorities and health partners. The LLR Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group collated, analysed and investigated the data and reported to the Vulnerability Executive.

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the report which featured the outcomes of the needs assessment and gave regard to the new duties placed upon the local authority following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and **ENDORSED** the Domestic Abuse Strategy 21-24.

10 QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE

Report No. 33/2022 was received from Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The report provided a table showing the key performance indicators (KPIs) for Children's Services for consideration and comment by the committee.

- It was reported that the recorded underspend of £250k would be kept due to the variable and demand led nature of the budget i.e. if a large family required the Council's care, then the underspend would be significantly reduced.

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the year-to-date performance information as at the end of quarter three (April – December) 2021-22.

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Councillor Wilby and the Strategic Director of Children and Families left the meeting at 8.35 pm

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11 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Councillor Ainsley requested that the work plan be amended so that the agenda for the next meeting would have the SEND Service Update as the first agenda item, with the Children's Services Update as second and that the Provision of Speech and Language Services should be removed completely.

No other changes were requested.

12 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

13 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 21st April 2022 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

Agreed Agenda

1. SEND Service Update & Review (including performance and SENDIASS)
2. Children's Services: Update including Self-Assessment & Ofsted visit
3. Q4 KPI (January - March)

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.37 pm

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