



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 13th October, 2022 at 7.00 pm

## **PRESENT**

Councillor G Waller (Chair)  
Councillor P Ainsley  
Councillor E Baines  
Councillor N Begy (Vice Chair)  
Councillor K Bool  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor S Lambert  
Councillor L Toseland

## **APOLOGIES**

Councillor R Wilson  
Councillor L Stephenson  
Peter French  
Angela Wakefield  
Jane Narey  
Rose Lynch

Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy  
Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Dioceses of Peterborough  
Director of Legal and Governance  
Scrutiny Officer  
Senior Commissioning Manager Pharmacy, Optometry, Dental Services - Midlands (East), NHS England – Midlands

## **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Penny Sharp  
Sarah Khawaja  
Tom Delaney (Clerk)

Strategic Director of Places  
Principal Solicitor  
Governance Manager

## **ATTENDED**

Caroline Goulding  
Adam Morby  
Steven Claydon  
Debra Mitchell  
Adrian Allen

Interim Deputy Director of Primary Care and Public Health, NHS England – Midlands  
Regional Chief Dentist for NHS England in the Midlands  
Local Dental Network (LDN) Chair for Northamptonshire and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland  
Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board  
Head of Service & Design, Public Health

## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Rick Wilson, Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Peter French, Angela Wakefield and Jane Narey.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no petitions, deputations or questions.

## **4 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

There were no questions with notice member members.

## **5 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

There were no notices of motion from members.

## **6 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE CALL-IN OF A DECISION**

There were no call-ins.

## **7 ACCESS TO NHS DENTAL SERVICES WITHIN RUTLAND**

Report No. 145/2022 was received from Rose Lynch, Pharmacy, Optometry, Dental Services – Midlands (East), NHS England – Midlands. The report was presented by Caroline Goulding, Interim Deputy Director of Primary Care and Public Health, NHS England – Midlands, Adam Morby, Regional Chief Dentist for NHS England in the Midlands and Steven Claydon, Local Dental Network (LDN) Chair for Northamptonshire and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The key issue for dental services currently was the lack of a qualified and skilled workforce i.e. dentists, dental nurses etc. The General Dental Council was reviewing the process for registering dentists and NHS England was considering supporting dental providers with workforce recruitment through the 'Golden Hello' scheme.
- Following the pandemic, dental services in the East Midlands were operating at 82%. Dental services in Rutland were operating at 75%.
- The national contract was impacting on improving access to dental services across the country.
- NHS England was working with Local Authorities on prevention initiatives such as making toothbrush kits available in foodbanks and providing toothbrush kits for distribution by healthcare workers.

- Work would also commence in the future with schools, families etc. with communication about good oral health and the benefits of visiting the dentist. Members requested that NHS England's communication strategy be distributed with the minutes.

**ACTION: NHS England**

- The committee noted that there was currently no water fluoridation scheme in Rutland. Rutland had a naturally occurring fluoride level of 0.27 mg/l; the UK/EU limit was 1.5 mg/l. Adding 1.0 mg/l of fluoride to the water would benefit residents' teeth and bones and help reduce the high level of dental decay in children. NHS England confirmed that it was the responsibility of the local health authority to ask the water authority to add fluoride to the water. NHS England agreed to send data to Governance ([governance@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rutland.gov.uk)) on the benefits of fluoridisation.

**ACTION: NHS England**

- NHS England confirmed that the re-form of the national contract started on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and would take 18 months to fully implement. In the next 6 months, Rutland would see the implementation of 'Skills Mix'. This would be the development of roles and responsibilities within dentistry as a way of providing better access to services alongside more efficient and effective patient care.
- As part of the transition strategy, NHS England would continue to work closely with the Integrated Care System so that the financial allocation for the commissioning of NHS dental services would be transferred to the LLR ICB (Integrated Care Board) on the 1st April 2023.
- NHS England confirmed that work had begun on Rutland's oral health needs assessment. This was planned for completion by early 2023 and would include a dental service consultation across Rutland.
- Members were informed that a large amount of dental activity required commissioning in Rutland – approximately 15,000 to 20,000 Units of Dental Activity. 1 check-up = 1 unit of dental activity. 1-2 fillings = 3 units of dental activity. 3 or more fillings = 5 units of dental activity. This would include the commissioning of another dental surgery in Rutland within the next 12 to 18 months.
- The cancelled contract in Rutland had provided 20,000 (25%) of the units of dental activity in Rutland. The dental service provider had moved to new premises and NHS England confirmed that each provider had to be checked, to ensure that the premises were safe for NHS dental patients to access. There had been a delay in this process and BUPA had taken the business decision to terminate the NHS services contract. BUPA were asked to re-consider their decision but they had confirmed that they wanted to continue in a private format. NHS England acknowledged that there had been issues with this premises checking process but that improvements had been made to prevent such situations from happening again.
- It was confirmed that future contracts would be designed to support dental providers in the provision of NHS dental services but that the main problem was the recruitment of NHS dental workers.
- Patients whose oral care needs could not be met through NHS primary dental care due to their complex medical, physical, or behavioural needs should be referred to the [Community \(Special Care\) Dental Service](#). Any issues with this service should be addressed directly with the service provider.

**Community (Special Care) Dental Service Head Office:** Telephone 0333 207 5992 / Email: [info@cds-cic.nhs.uk](mailto:info@cds-cic.nhs.uk)

- NHS England confirmed that they did commission children's NHS dental services in Rutland and that details of the NHS dentists in Rutland accepting children as patients would be circulated with the minutes.

**ACTION: NHS England**

- It was noted that the [NHS Dentists](#) website did not list which dentists were accepting NHS patients. Residents were contacting dental practices directly only to be informed that the waiting list for new patients in Rutland was approximately 800. Adam Morby informed members that providers would be contractually obliged to state on the website if they were accepting NHS patients.
- NHS England requested that residents with issues regarding dental services in Rutland including the Community (Special Care) Dental Service, notified NHS England so that the matter could be investigated.

**NHS England Customer Contact Centre:** Telephone: 0300 311 22 33 / Email: [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net)

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** that dental practitioners were independent contractors to the NHS. Many dental practices operated a mixed private/NHS model of care and all patients were free to choose what option of dental care they would prefer to receive.
- b) **NOTED** that the commissioning responsibility for all NHS dental services would transfer from NHSE to the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (LLR) Integrated Care Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and that the statutory responsibility for oral health improvement would remain with the local authority public health team.
- c) **AGREED** that NHS England – Midlands would return in a year to provide the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update regarding access to NHS dental services within Rutland.
- d) **AGREED** that the Committee would write to MP for Rutland and/or the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding:
  - The fluoridation of Rutland's water.
  - The issues with the process of implementing new NHS dental premises.
  - The review of contract provision to encourage NHS dental workers and service providers
  - The possible use of Rutland Memorial Hospital to provide additional NHS dental services

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**Caroline Goulding, Adam Morby, Steven Claydon, Debra Mitchell and Adrian Allen left the meeting at 8.25 p.m.**

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**8 GROUP AND PANEL UPDATES**

- a) CULTURE / ASSET REVIEW

An update was received from Councillor Waller:

- Scoping document for phase 1 of the review (Museum) was approved on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

- Councillor G Brown had resigned from group but Councillor A Walters had agreed to join and lead the group as his replacement.
- Members of the group would include Councillors Baines, Begy, Fox and Waller.

b) CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

An update was received from Councillor Waller:

- The task and finish group remained on the committee's work plan.
- Group would be led by Councillor Begy. Members would include Councillor Toseland.
- An update would be received from Councillor Begy at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

c) HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

An update was received from Councillor Bool:

- Councillor Bool was unable to continue to lead the group but would continue to be part of it.
- Councillor P Browne had agreed to join/lead the group as his replacement.
- A scoping document would be produced in the near future.

d) HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL

An update was received from Councillor Waller:

- The draft report would be presented to the committee at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November or the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

e) PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE PROPOSALS

An update was received from Councillor Waller:

- The committee had agreed not to continue with this group at the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- A report from officers would hopefully be received in January, February or March of 2023 requesting scrutiny committee's input regarding the proposed business plans prior to a final decision being made towards the end of 2023.

f) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, DEVOLUTION & LEVELLING UP

A briefing was received Penny Sharp, Strategic Director of Places:

- Work to develop the evidence base to support the new economic development strategy had been commissioned and was underway.
- An investment plan for £400k additional rural economic prosperity funding needed to be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- Wider stakeholder sessions would be held later in the year as key policy areas needed to be identified.

- Intention for the production of the draft economic development strategy was the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- The Scrutiny Committee could assist by reviewing the evidence base.
- The group would be led by Councillor A Brown. Members would include Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy and Waller.
- The group would hold two sessions with Penny Sharp and officers to review the evidence base.

g) SEND GROUP

An update was received from Councillor Waller:

- As agreed at the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, an update from the SEND Group would be provided at the scrutiny meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and feedback from the meeting with SEND Action Rutland would be given at either the December or January meeting – date to be confirmed.

## 9 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATE

- Councillor Waller informed attendees that an update had been planned from Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy.
- Unfortunately, Councillor Stephenson had tested positive for COVID so had sent her apologies.
- Her Portfolio Holder Update would be re-arranged to a future meeting.

## 10 REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Forward Plan and Annual Work Plan were discussed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee to update members regarding the Corporate Strategy progress.
- Councillor Waller to invite Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health to a future meeting of the SOSC and arrange a pre-meeting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Director to discuss the issues/questions to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**ACTION: Councillor Waller**

- The Catmose Sports Leisure Contract was planned for discussion by scrutiny on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. Penny Sharp confirmed that the procurement had commenced as per Cabinet's approval and that the tender process was due to close presently. However, the situation had changed since Cabinet's approval and there may be little or no market interest in the contract. It was agreed that Penny Sharp would confirm with Governance, before the publication deadline of the next meeting, if the contract still required scrutinising.

**ACTION: Penny Sharp**

## 11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

## 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	7	NHS England's to send their communication strategy to Governance for distribution with the minutes.	NHS England
2.	7	NHS England to send data on the benefits of fluoridisation to Governance for distribution with the minutes.	NHS England
3.	7	NHS England to send details of the NHS dentists in Rutland accepting children as patients to Governance for distribution with the minutes.	NHS England
4.	10	Councillor Waller to invite Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health to a future meeting of the SOSC and arrange a pre-meeting for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Director to discuss the issues/questions to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.	Councillor Waller
5.	10	Catmose Sports Leisure Contract Penny Sharp to confirm with Governance, before the publication deadline of the next meeting, if the contract still required scrutinising.	Penny Sharp

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Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

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