



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, 23rd March, 2023 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT Councillor A Brown (Acting Chair)
Councillor P Ainsley
Councillor R Wilson
Councillor G Brown (representing Councillor N Begy)
Councillor P Browne (representing Councillor S Lambert)
Councillor R Payne (representing Councillor G Waller)

APOLOGIES Councillor G Waller (Chair)
Councillor E Baines
Councillor N Begy (Vice Chair)
Councillor K Bool
Councillor S Lambert
Councillor L Toseland

STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS – EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT

Andreas Menzies Roman Catholic Diocese

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT

Councillor L Stephenson Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy
Councillor R Powell Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport
Councillor S Harvey Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care
Councillor D Wilby Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mark Andrews Chief Executive
Angela Wakefield Strategic Director of Law and Governance
Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children and Families
Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director Resources S151 Officer
Penny Sharp Strategic Director of Places
Jane Narey (Clerk) Scrutiny Officer

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director of Law and Governance welcomed members to the meeting and informed them that apologies had been received from the Chair

(Councillor Gale Waller) and the Vice Chair (Councillor Nick Begy). The Committee would therefore be required to vote for an Acting Chair as per Procedure Rule 155.

It was moved by Councillor P Ainsley and seconded by Councillor G Brown that Councillor A Brown should be nominated as the Acting Chair for the meeting. Upon being put to the vote, with 5 votes in favour and 1 abstention, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED

- a) That Councillor A Brown was approved as the Acting Chair for the meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 23 March 2023.

The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Gale Waller (Chair), Councillor Nick Begy (Vice-Chair), Councillor Kenneth Bool, Councillor Leah Toseland, Councillor Stephen Lambert and Councillor Edward Baines. Councillor Raymond Payne, Councillor Gordon Brown and Councillor Paul Browne attended the meeting as the representatives for Councillors Waller, Begy and Lambert respectively.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 26th January and the 9th February 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS ARISING

Actions from the meeting held on the 26th January 2023

Action 1

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport to send Councillor Begy the details regarding the post removed within the Development Control team.

Councillor R Powell confirmed that the action had been completed.

Action 2

The Committee requested that the report to Council (27th March 2023) on the Levelling Up Fund be clarified to enable full understanding of the government's requirements regarding the capital funding.

Action completed.

Action 3

The Committee requested that the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care kept members up to date on any increase in risks/costs regarding Community Support Services and ASC Demand (Table 2 - P10 and P14).

The Clerk informed attendees that Councillor S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care had confirmed that she would keep members up to date on any increase in risks/costs regarding Community Support Services and ASC Demand.

Action 4

The Strategic Director of Resources to send details to councillors regarding what saving could be made by closing the Council's post room a few days a week and what impact, if any, this would have on services.

The Clerk confirmed that the action had been completed.

Actions from the meeting held on the 9th February 2023

Action 1

The Portfolio Holder to ask the Primary Care Network if patients were charged for the call whilst waiting on hold and would notify members of the response.

The Clerk stated she would contact Councillor Harvey for confirmation.

Action 2

The Portfolio Holder to ask the Primary Care Network about the possibility of the GP practices in the future pooling their individual phone services into one combined service and feedback the response to the committee members.

Mark Andrews, Chief Executive informed members that the Primary Care Network had confirmed that they would be discussing the matter with the Integrated Care Board.

Action 3

CULTURE / ASSET REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor E Baines, with the support of Governance, to continue to seek information from educational establishments as to how the culture offer would be of most benefit to students and how they might become more involved.

The Clerk confirmed that the action was being undertaken.

Action 4

HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL: FINAL REPORT

Councillor Waller to meet with the Portfolio Holder to re-word recommendation 6.2 for discussion/approval at the meeting of the scrutiny committee on the 9th March 2023.

The Clerk confirmed that the action had been completed and was on the agenda for approval.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received.

6 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice with notice were received from Members.

7 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion were received.

8 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE CALL-IN OF A DECISION

No call-ins were received.

9 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATE

An update was received from Councillor D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services covering the Visions Children's Centre, the Childcare Sufficiency

Statement and the Childcare Review. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Ofsted inspections had taken place at Ryhall CE Academy, Ketton CofE School, Great Casterton CofE Primary School, [Edith Weston Academy](#), Uppingham Community College, [Catmose Primary](#) and [St Nicholas CE Primary School](#). The three reports received and initial feedback from the other inspections indicated that Rutland schools were 'good.'
- The extension at the Catmose campus was ongoing, the Brightways relocation and internal refurbishment had been finished and the remaining new build project was on-track and on budget.
- The Interview Project would run from the 3rd to the 7th July 2023. There would be 4 interview offices with 7 interviews held per office per day. Any Member wanting further details or to assist with the Interview Project should contact Councillor D Wilby.
- Part One of the Uppingham Community College Inclusion Project had been completed and work had begun on Part Two of the project.
- Casterton College had been successful in their bid for funding from the Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme but no details as yet received.
- The Oakham Church of England Primary School was preparing to join the Rutland Learning Trust led by Rob Gooding.
- Over 98% of parents received their first choice of secondary school in the school admission process. Councillor Wilby expressed his thanks to Julie Brown, Admissions Officer at RCC who had done a magnificent job.
- Places for children with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) continued to be challenging and expensive but good work had been undertaken by Council Officers with the SEND Recovery Plan.
- A focused effort had taken place by Officers to engage with the SEND Parent Collaborative Group and meetings had proved positive.
- A strong Virtual School, for children with a social worker, was in place. This was led by Lee Martin, Head of Virtual School and good work was being done to support children and young people.
- The county currently had 10 unaccompanied asylum seekers and all were doing well and engaging with education.
- The Ukrainian refugees within the county had all been well received and had all settled well into the schools and the area.
- The Children's Centre had been a beacon for the community especially during the Covid lockdown. It remained a vibrant and well run centre with lots of initiative to run family focused groups and activities and was designated as Rutland's first 'Family Hub' in January 2023.
- Councillor Wilby shared two presentations with members of the committee. The first was on the Children's Centre Data Headlines for January 2022 and the second was on the Parent's Voice regarding the Children's Centre – copies attached.
- Education and Children's Services continued to be a challenging area. Additional stresses had been placed on the service by the pandemic, unaccompanied asylum seekers and the war in Ukraine but the Council's Officers were dedicated and had worked very hard to provide the best for the children of Rutland.
- The Chief Executive confirmed that direct payments to Adults carers had ceased but direct payments to those who required care and support had not and would continue.

- Councillor P Browne queried what was being done to help reduce the deficit in the SEND High Needs Block budget. The Strategic Director of Children and Families informed members that a SEND recovery plan was in place and the deficit was covered by a Central Government 'statutory override' until 2026 so would not affect the Council's general fund. The Council was one of 55 Local Authorities who were taking part in the Department for Education's (DfE) 'Delivering Better Value Programme.' This was a long term project which was aimed at stalling the increase in the budget deficit and bringing the Council into a balanced budget. A full update on the programme would be provided once the diagnostic phase had been completed by the end of June 2023.
- Councillor R Payne queried what was being done to help promote the free school meals school holiday programme in secondary schools. The Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services informed members that reminders were sent to all schools but confirmed that he would request for a further reminder to be sent. The Strategic Director of Children and Families informed members that targeted work was being done through the Early Help Service to encourage the older age group to attend the programme.
- Councillor G Brown asked if membership of the Youth Council could be promoted to children and young people who lived outside of Oakham and if pupils from the other schools e.g. Oakham School and Uppingham School could be invited to be part of the Rutland Youth Council. The Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services confirmed that he would pass on the request to the Young People Services team.

10 LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 2 - ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING

Report No. 50/2023 was received from Cllr Lucy Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy and was presented by Penny Sharp, Strategic Director of Places. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A decision regarding the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) would be taken by Council on Monday, 27th March 2023 so members should have had access to the full Council papers including the exempt reports.
- Round 2 of the LUF was announced in March 2022 and a combined bid between Rutland County Council (RCC) and Melton Borough Council (MBC) was agreed by Cabinet in June 2022, submitted in August 2022 and a decision was received in January 2023.
- There were three key elements to the bid:
 - investment in our health economy via the medi-tech digital innovation centre;
 - investment in our public transport via an integrated transport or 'mobi-hub' and
 - investment in our culture to enhance tourism via the enhanced digital visitor experience.
- The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy informed members that only 1 in 5 of the LUF bids were successful.
- Members were informed that the second item under section 2.17 only referred to women as there was a disparity in wages between men and women. A compelling evidence base had shown that women in Rutland were at a greater disadvantage than men in Rutland and received lower than national wages.

- Members were informed that a very tight governance framework would be put in place through the business plan, as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Chief Executive informed members that gateway i.e. 'Go, No Go' sections would be clearly identified and any decisions to proceed with the projects would be a full Council decision.
- The Strategic Director of Places confirmed that the Council had an experienced project team but that additional staff would be recruited to support the programme. It was noted that there would be no additional cost to the Council despite the increased amount of work as the provision of the additional staff had already been integrated into the service costs. Additional funding streams would also be accessed in line with the strict LUF regulations.
- Councillor G Brown thanked Officers for the additional documentation and stated that the MoU provided greater clarity and the legal documentation between RCC and MBC was a lot clearer. However, he expressed concern about the revenue costs, the rising capital costs and the capability and time of Officers.
- The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy stated that financial thresholds were determined by the Council's governance rules so might require a Cabinet decision or a full Council decision. The feasibility plan for Rutland Memorial Hospital had been outlined at the [Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board on Tuesday, 21st March 2023](#).
- The Strategic Director of Places confirmed that every successful Local Authority had been requested to provide an updated baseline position with the signed MOU due to the rise in costs since the bid submission back in August 2022. She stated that at the moment no fixed local had been identified for the enhanced procedure suite at RMH but that the recent Asset Review had identified other options to maximise the use of land holdings including Jules House, Oakham Medical Practice, etc.
- The Chief Executive confirmed that he had already discussed with Councillor A Brown, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee's Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group, the opportunity for the group to be a 'critical friend' by assisting with monitoring the LUF programme/costs.
- The LUF project had been identified as a 'high risk project' which required Cabinet decisions and a high level of governance support. As such, the LUF Executive Delivery Programme Board would be a joint venture with MBC and the Board's Terms of Reference would be produced by Cabinet. Membership would include RCC's Chief Executive, The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation, the Strategic Director of Places and the Strategic Director of Resources and S151 Officer.
- The Capital funding would allow the Council to re-design services to be more efficient and therefore save money but the transformation would need to be governed so suggestions from the new executive would be welcomed.
- Members were informed that there was no option within the MoU to 'claw back' funds but that although MBC was responsible for its own projects, RCC could stop the necessary funding if sufficiently concerned.

Angela Wakefield, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that a motion to Exclude the Press and Public could be moved without notice under Procedure Rule 33 (o).

It was therefore proposed by Councillor P Browne that the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as the following item of business was likely to lead to the

disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). This was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

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The Acting Chair closed the public meeting at 8.20 pm.
The Acting Chair re-opened the public meeting at 8.50 p.m.

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RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** that a report would be presented to Council on 27 March 2023 with these proposed draft recommendations:
- A) Approves the Memorandum of Understanding for the Rutland and Melton 'Rural Innovation in Place' Levelling Up Funding (LUF) grant from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy and Portfolio Holder for Resources to sign the agreement on behalf of Rutland County Council.
 - B) Approves that Rutland County Council acts as the grant administrator (Accountable Body) for the Levelling Up Fund capital grant and delegates authority to the Director of Resources (s151 Officer) to manage the Accountable Body function.
 - C) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy to finalise and enter into a grant agreement between Rutland County Council (as Accountable Body) and Melton Borough Council (as grant recipient) to apportion responsibility for delivering the requirements of the Levelling Up Fund Memorandum of Understanding.
 - D) Approves the use of Developer Contributions to provide £1.2 million match funding to contribute to the Rutland element of the Levelling Up Fund proposition as identified in the indicative allocations previously agreed by Cabinet.
 - E) Delegates to the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Places the administration and implementation (including project delivery) of the Levelling Up Fund grant requirements and monitoring returns.
- b) **ADVISED** of any additional issues or areas of concerns that Council may need to consider in making an informed decision about the acceptance of the Levelling Up Fund capital grant and Rutland County Council acting as Accountable Body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee **AGREED** the following recommendations:

1. That clarity be provided to members at Council on Monday evening around the transformation project and the potential change in services resulting in the investment of the LUF and that benefits will be brought forward accordingly.

2. That the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group be involved in reviewing the new Baseline calculations, timelines and the GO/NO-GO gateways potentially involving Cabinet decisions.
3. That the Transformation Governance Meeting involving Group Leaders be tasked with reviewing the savings achieved by the capital expenditure under 1 above.
4. That clarity be provided to members at Council on Monday evening of the potential of extending the scope of the LUF to provide wider and deeper health provision in Oakham.
5. That Scrutiny Committee consider the LUF Project Board Terms of Reference when it comes to Cabinet later this year in order to consider the implications of whether it should be considered as a 'Very High Risk' project requiring Council approval rather than a 'High Risk' project.
6. That a member visit be considered to a Medi-Hub, similar in style to that proposed, to understand the concept and the opportunities.

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Councillor G Brown left the meeting at 8.52 p.m.

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11 GROUP AND PANEL UPDATES

A) ECONOMIC STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- A verbal update was received from Councillor A Brown regarding the meeting of the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group held on the 21st February 2023 – minutes attached.
- The next meeting would be held on the 12th April 2023 and a further update provided at the next meeting of the scrutiny committee.

B) HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

An update was received from Councillor P Browne. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor P Browne had engaged with concerned residents in his ward and discussions had been held with various parties regarding possible traffic calming measures and their implementation into our towns and villages.
- He had also surveyed the railway-crossing closing times and liaised with Network Rail on their planned future train usage through Oakham, which had identified the extent of closing times from 2024 to 2030 and its consequential effects on traffic flows.
- Enquires had been made for Members to become involved in the task and finish group but this had been met with no wish for involvement.
- This was attributed to the fact that the elections were only 4 months away and that the timeframe would have restricted the ability for both the compilation of a realistic analysis and for any appropriate recommendations to be considered.
- Councillor R Payne proposed that the group should cease and that the matter should be re-introduced after the May election. This was seconded and being put to the vote was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **AGREED** that the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group should cease.
- b) **AGREED** that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider re-commencing the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group.

C) HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL

The Acting Chair presented the amended wording of recommendation 6.2 in the final report for approval by the Committee. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The wording had been amended and approved by Councillor Gale Waller, Chair of the Homelessness Evidence Panel and Councillor Sam Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care.
- The Strategic Director for Children and Families had requested that the term 'domestic violence' be amended to 'domestic abuse' as this was the correct terminology.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **AGREED** that the phrase 'domestic violence' be amended to 'domestic abuse'.
- b) **APPROVED** recommendation 6.2 of the Homelessness Evidence Panel to read as follows:

'That Cabinet, as part of its performance monitoring, review data on rehousing victims of domestic abuse to provide reassurance that the housing provided is suitable for the needs and safety of this cohort of homeless people.'

12 REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Forward Plan and Annual Work Plan were discussed. No changes or amendments were requested.

13 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 20th April 2023 at 7 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

15 LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND INTEGRATED CARE SERVICE: PERFORMANCE REPORT

- The quarterly performance data report was received from the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care System.
- Members were informed that the report was 'For Information Only.'
- If any Member had any questions regarding the report, they should send them to Governance (governance@rutland.gov.uk) who would collate and forward them on to Kate Allardyce, Senior Performance Manager for a response.

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The Acting Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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Children's Centre Data Headlines 2022

11

PRESENTED BY

DONNA CARTMELL-FRY

Universal Attendance and building access 2022

Universal attendance has risen over the year as we slowly came out of the pandemic.

850 children 0-5 years (48% of population) accessed services through the Children's Centre.

This is an increase of 462 children or 54% on 2021.

Footfall – **6,122** pairs of feet belonging to the public have used the Children's Centre Building.

The Military sites 1,118 and in Uppingham 935 pairs of feet have accessed services.



Best Start For Life

Safeguarding babies from harm:



Safer Sleeping

- Safer sleeping messages delivered face to face in courses **82 parents and 78 babies**
- ↪ • There were 63 children under 5 supported by an Early Help or Social worker in 2022. Of these children **41 or 65% of these accessed Children's Centre services.**
- Facebook posts about safer sleeping reached **769 people**

ICON

- **71 parents** have received ICON information through the children's centre, **benefitting 73 babies.**
- Facebook posts about ICON have reached **214 people**
- **77%** of Early Help and Social Workers have attended ICON training. More have since accessed the ICON information through LLR training. All have received the 7 minute briefing.

Paediatric First Aid



- **77 parents** have received a paediatric first aid workshop (1 hr long). Benefitting **73 babies and children**.
- Paediatric first aid courses – **17 parents** have completed first aid courses over the year, benefiting **17 children**.

“...Whilst I knew that taking the course would be excellent knowledge to have with a 21-month-old toddler X, the events that transpired last week led to my learnings from this course being invaluable.

*Last Tuesday, My son had a slight fever and temperature that got worse throughout the day, and by the late afternoon this unfortunately resulted in him having a seizure, something he had never had before, and was taken to hospital in an ambulance. **Though it was the most frightening and shocking thing I have ever experienced, everything I learnt in the course was at the forefront of my mind and I automatically knew what to do to help my son in that situation**, by stripping his clothes, calling 999 and cooling his body down with fresh air. This helped bring him out of the seizure gradually. X had experienced a febrile seizure, something relatively common and leaving him with no long-term side effects.*

... I genuinely believe that I would have panicked in this situation had I not been equipped with the knowledge she passed on to me...”



Keeping Children Safe - 0-11 years

Face to face in the Children's Centre

Fire service visits – 35 children attended, parents were given advice and children were met uniformed firemen and women and looked around the engine inside and out.

Online offer

The Children's Centre website:

safeguarding information 27 visits

physical safety 35 visits

online safety 74 visits

Facebook:

Physical safety -reached 1,750 people, 90 engagements

Early Identification Of Need For Additional Support

HV clinics – over 100 HV clinics took place with **506 children** brought and seen.

16

Section 23- The Local authority received notifications from Health services to inform them that there is a child who may have an additional need/s. 17 children were referred in this way in 2022. All **17 children** and their families received support from the Children's Centre and Early Years Inclusion service through home visits or telephone calls.



Speech communication and language support

Parents and Children

- ❖ SALT clinic- 7 children
- ❖ One to one support with Speech, communication & language as focus (WITB)- 6 children
- ❖ Early Years courses where the focus is all speech and language 112 children
- ¹⁷❖ SALT drop-in to our Early Years Sessions giving advice- 23 children
- ❖ SALT led courses for parents - 9 children benefitted

Professionals

- ❖ SALT led courses for professionals – 9 professionals attended
- ❖ SALT advice for professionals facilitated through the CC team (3 sessions so far) – 4 settings have attended discussion 8 anonymous children



Parental Mental Health & Attachment

- **Baby Massage**- 83 parents and **99 children** benefitted from supported attachment and mental health due completing a baby massage course.
- **The Social Baby**- 71 parents were given information about the importance of their own mental health and self-care. Benefitting **73 babies** and children.

Website

Perinatal mental health- **48 visits**

Adults' mental health – **25 visits**

Children and Young People's Mental Health – **85 visits**

Facebook

Adults- reached **207 people**, **2 engagements**

Young people –reached **178 people**, **27 engagements**





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Weaning & Breastfeeding

Childrens Centre website

Breastfeeding advice and support from Breast feeding support Rutland- **94 visits**

Facebook

Weaning reached **308 people**, 7 engagements

All parents signposted to the Health for Under 5's website.

Thank you



Children's Centre

Children's Centre Governance Meeting
January 2023

Parent and Child's Voice



RUTLAND
family hub

– We ended the year with a great Christmas Party with the Library.



Parent Champions/ Volunteers



Our Parent Champions and Volunteers ended 2022 with a get together and some Christmas wreath making. It allowed us to celebrate and thank them for all their hard work in 2022.

We have Parent Champions and volunteers in a range of roles now supporting weekly groups and courses, supporting admin tasks and attending meetings and events.

We are all excited about how these roles will develop in 2023 and already have our sights on some new recruits!

You said..... We did.....

Parents that attend our Young Parents Group reported that they were struggling to attend due to the timing of the group. We talked this through with them and have quickly implemented a new time to the group, which started at the beginning of January.



24



During our last Survey Monkey we had some feedback about parents wanting more information about teeth cleaning for babies and children. Since then we have increased the amount of information we provide about this on our social media and our website and are also planning to involve both parents and children in fun activities to promote teeth cleaning in some of our groups.

We had really positive feedback about our Saturday Dad's sessions and more are being planned. We also had feedback that both Mums and Dads would like some opportunities on Saturdays, for working Mums and opportunity to enjoy a session as a family. We plan to put on some Saturday family sessions this year.



Survey Monkey feedback

Since we last met, we have been collecting parent feedback for our Pen Green Study. We are now the second year into the study and from our learning from last year we have developed our methods of gaining the information to ensure we get the most out of it. There are three parts to gaining this information, a survey monkey questionnaire, 1:1 interviews and individual and group filming sessions of parents.

We are in the process of collating all the information gained for Pen Green to then work on it and create video clips and a report. However, these are some of the highlights from the feedback we have received from parents:

One of the parents who previously attended and now attends our holiday sessions said:

“Whenever we walk past my daughter will say: “remember when we went there mummy and played with that nice dolls house and read the ‘Lester put your vest on’ story.”

“I don’t drive, so having a place to come and meet my friends and meet new people. I made friends at the antenatal session who I am still friends with now, over 10 years later”.

When talking about What’s in the Box:

“It helped my child communicate with new people, before he wouldn’t do that. It helped him going into nursery, which he has just started”.

When asked: What do you think the impact of not having the service from would be?

“It would also mean feeling more isolated/less support and not being able to form new friendships for both my children and myself”.

“I wouldn’t have met my best friend. I would have felt alone in Oakham”.

“We would have just stayed at home, We would have been completely isolated”.

“I think I would still be in a toxic relationship. I definitely wouldn’t have had anymore children. Coming to the Children’s Centre helped me see the fun sides of being a parent, not just the crying and sleepless nights”.

26 “Great service and I feel very lucky that these classes were available to me and they were free. Maternity leave can be lonely and isolating and these really saved my mental health and provided somewhere where me and my baby could go, learn and meet other likeminded people”

When asked: How could this service be made better?

Myself and my partner attended Antenatal sessions prior to having our first child which was helpful. These session may be beneficial to other first-time parents.

When asked how happy are you with the overall service provided by Visions Children’s Centre?

93% felt the listed groups/courses were good or outstanding, the figure for overall satisfaction was 82% from the last time we reported it.

Our learning

Although we haven't had the finished video clips or report yet, it feels like we have again received feedback about parents feeling isolated and that attending the Children's Centre has helped decrease this. Isolation was a theme from last years report. Using this benefit of attendance and some quotes from other parents may encourage families that aren't currently attending to give it ago.

We know ourselves and parents are telling us that the Antenatal group and support is important to starting their journey in parenthood. We are starting a new course before the end of February to meet this need.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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**Rutland County Council
Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group**

21st February 2023

Present:

1. Councillor Andrew Brown (Chair)
2. Councillor Paul Ainsley
3. Councillor Gale Waller
4. Penny Sharp (Strategic Director – Places)
5. Ingrid Hooley (Head of Sustainable Economy and Place)
6. Alex Gardiner (Director, Metro Dynamics)
7. Jane Narey (Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies:

8. Councillor Edward Baines
9. Councillor Nick Begy

A presentation was received from Metro Dynamics which gave an outline of the draft economic strategy. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The final draft of the economic strategy was hoped to be ready for review before the county elections with it then being presented to Council after the elections.
- Slide 6 highlighted the key items for the strategy to be built around.
- Slide 11 identified the 4 main priorities:
 1. Supporting Local Businesses To Grow
 2. Enhancing Rutland's Reputation
 3. Accelerating Green Transition
 4. Inclusive For All

- The strategy needs to be focused and play on Rutland's strengths.
- Engagement with local businesses was needed to identify what they said they needed to grow and prosper.
- We need to encourage young people to live and work in Rutland so the strategy should emphasise the opportunity for prosperous careers and affordable housing.
- Work with partners needs to include all neighbouring councils and not just Leicestershire e.g. North Northamptonshire, Harborough, Melton Mowbray, South Kesteven, Peterborough.
- The A1 was currently not counted as an Economic Growth Corridor by Midlands Connect.
- Agriculture was the biggest industry in Rutland so more emphasis was needed of this within the strategy.
- Rutland was small but agile – the strategy needed to be bold and exciting but also realistic. We don't need a strategy that we can't put into practice.

AGREED

Agreed 1: 'Enhancing Rutland's Reputation' should be re-named 'Attracting Business to Rutland'.

Agreed 2: 'Inclusive for All' should be re-named 'Opportunities for All'.

Agreed 3: The economic strategy document should be titled 'Much in Little' (Multum in Parvo) as per the county's motto.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was proposed for early April – exact date tbc.

Meeting closed: 6.28 p.m.