

CABINET

18 October 2022

RUTLAND'S SERVICE CHILDREN'S PROMISE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	A county for everyone	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/190822	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gill Curtis – Head of Learning and Skills	01572 758460 gcurtis@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 1) Endorses Rutland's Service Children's Promise so that it can be shared with the education sector and wider services later in autumn term 2022 and influence and enrich the practice of those who work with children of Rutland's armed forces families.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report aims to provide Cabinet with information about Rutland Service Children's promise which has been developed to promote the achievement and successes of this cohort of children and young people to ensure each and every one benefits from their education in Rutland

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 In June 2022 a 2-day Service Pupil event, which had been funded through an MOD support grant, was held to further raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and, particularly, the potential impact on the life of the child of serving personnel. Three separate focused sessions were held for Rutland County Council and partner services who work with military families, Rutland early education and childcare providers and for senior leaders from Rutland schools. Each session provided activities which enabled attendees to reflect on their own roles and responsibilities and to consider what changes they could make to minimise disadvantage within

their own service or provision that could arise for a child or young person as an outcome of growing up in a military family.

- 2.2 A further session was held with pupils of serving personal which focused on gathering their thoughts on their own lived experiences through poetry and art, and the message that they wanted to share with the Council, via postcards to the Chief Executive (summarised Appendix A), and to their education settings.
- 2.3 The feedback from adults, children and young people was gathered and has been collated into the 'Rutland Promise' (Appendix B) which summarises the points raised by the children and young people and sets out a way of working identified by RCC and partner officers and by staff from the education sector.
- 2.4 It is proposed that this 'Promise' is published and shared with the Council and partners and the education sector as a demonstration to the young people involved that, not only have we asked for their views, but that their voice has been listened to and will be acted upon.
- 2.5 A child-friendly version of the Promise is being developed with those children and young people who attended the event and will be co-produced in the autumn term 2022. A 'starting point' has been drafted (Appendix C) however, it is important that these young people feel their voice is valued and that their version of the Promise is developed through their co-production with the Council and so this may look very different when finalised.
- 2.6 A short video from the event has been produced and will be shared widely once we have final written assurances from the schools involved that there is full parental permission for children's images to be shared.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This promise was drawn up in consultation with members of Rutland County Council Children's Services and representatives from the Early Years Education sector and Rutland primary and secondary schools.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative would be to continue without the Promise to support this group of young people.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant financial implications for Rutland County Council associated with the Service Children's Promise. The Local Authority is working with national charities to support activities and events, and regularly applies to external funding sources, including the MOD, to cover additional outgoings.

6. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Service Children's Promise has been developed as a good practice model to support those services working with our children from armed forces families to ensure their practice does not disadvantage this cohort of children and young people.

6.2 With Cabinet endorsement, this Promise can be considered within future Council policy and practice decisions which relate to the families of armed forces personnel.

7. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

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

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no community safety implications associated with the Service Children's Promise.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Service Children's Promise aims to minimise disadvantage and to promote the achievement and successes of this cohort of children and young people.

11. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The Rutland Service Children's Promise will influence future activities aimed at promoting the achievement and successes of this cohort of children and young people to ensure each and every one benefits from their education in Rutland.

12.2 It is therefore recommended that Cabinet endorses the Promise so that it can be shared with the education sector and wider services and minimise potential disadvantage for the children of serving personnel.

12.3 Through Cabinet endorsement, the Council can promote the Promise within future policies and practice which impact on those families of those serving in the armed forces to ensure our actions do not disadvantage those children and young people and that we continue to listen to, value and act upon, these voices.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 There are no additional background papers to the report

14. APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix A – Service Children's Promise – Messages to RCC Chief Executive June 2022

14.2 Appendix B – RCC's Service Children's Promise

14.3 Appendix C – DRAFT child-friendly starting point – RCC's Service Children's Promise September 2022

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