



# Rutland County Council

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Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 758307 DX 28340 Oakham

Record of a meeting of the **PEOPLE (ADULTS AND HEALTH) SCRUTINY PANEL**  
held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, at 7.00pm on **Thursday 22**  
**November 2012**

**PRESENT:** Mr J Dale – Chairman (in the Chair)  
Mrs J K Figgis  
Mr R J Gale  
Mr J M Lammie (substitute for Mrs C J Cartwright)  
Mr C A Parsons  
Mr B W Roper  
Mrs L I Stephenson  
Miss G Waller  
Mr M R Woodcock

**Also in** Mr R Begy – Portfolio Holder for Culture and Housing

**Attendance:** Ms K Thompson – East Midlands Ambulance Service

Mr M Jones – East Midlands Ambulance Service

**OFFICERS** Ms C Chambers – Strategic Director for People

**PRESENT** Mrs J Haigh – Senior Manager, Health, Wellbeing and Commissioning

Ms W Poynton – Assistant Director – Services for People

Mr I Baugh – Democratic Services Officer

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**APOLOGIES:** Mrs C J Cartwright, Mr W J Cross

## **513. RECORD OF MEETING**

The Record of the People (Adults & Health) Scrutiny Panel held on 23 August 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **514. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were raised by members.

## **515. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions or deputations had been received from members of the public.  
Four questions had been received from a member of the public. It was agreed to take these questions after Agenda Item no. 7.

## **516. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

A question had been received from Mrs J K Figgis.

“The Oakham Medical Practice has a new appointments system, under which patients are not allowed to book appointments until they have first been triaged by a doctor. The invaluable online appointment booking system has been abolished. What was the consultation with RCC on this matter, and what is the system for monitoring whether it works for patients.”

The following response was provided by Mrs Haigh:

Oakham Medical Practice did not carry out a formal consultation process, but they did work with their Patient Participation Group for approximately 6 months before the roll out of the new model. Prior to going public they did have discussions and meetings with Alan Duncan MP, RCC, Rutland Link and Oakham Town Council and the new model was well publicised in the local press and on Rutland Radio. The Practice informed us that feedback from all of these events was supportive and positive. The Practice have introduced the new model in response to public opinion and feedback in relation to access to their services, which was becoming an increasingly difficult issue and to deal with the projected increase in population in Oakham over the next few years. The new model will be monitored carefully to ensure it is effective and efficient and meeting the needs of patients.

Mrs Figgis expressed concern as to how working people would find time to arrange the triage session but was pleased that something was being done.

## **517. NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No Notices of Motion were submitted in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule No 220.

## **518. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE PANEL FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION**

No matters were referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to call in of a decision in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Rule 206.

## **519. EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE (EMAS) PRESENTATION**

Ms Karly Thompson, Divisional Director for the South area of EMAS gave her presentation.

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Mr Begy then read out the 4 questions that had been received from Kerry Quay:

- i. With the proposed changes put forward by the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) are we to be a County without an Ambulance station?

- ii. If the station did close and the ambulance has to be driven in from another county, does that mean for several periods of time we will be without any ambulance cover?
- iii. Can the ambulance service guarantee that lives won't be lost due to lack of cover?
- iv. Those that work at Oakham ambulance station and live in Rutland are they going to have to drive to another county to pick up an ambulance to then drive back again?

In response Ms Thompson answered the questions as follows:

- i. There will be a Community Ambulance Point in Rutland.
- ii. Cover will continue to operate as it does currently, there will be no change in cover under the proposed system.
- iii. EMAS could not make any such guarantee but there will be improved cover due to operational efficiencies of the new system.
- iv. Local solutions will be implemented to address this issue.

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In discussions the following points were raised:

- i. The location of potential ambulance posts was raised in terms of access over the railway line and the location of the nearest hospital.
- ii. It was noted that the current and proposed systems will monitor spikes in demand and adjust the provision of ambulance cover accordingly.
- iii. The Community Ambulance Hub is an ambulance station by any other name, staff will be no more than 20 miles from such hubs.
- iv. The overall level of cover would not change as a result of the proposals.
- v. Community Ambulance Posts may share rest facilities with other services, e.g. Fire, Police.
- vi. The response times in Rutland, as a rural county, was raised. The new proposals would deliver a 5% overall improvement in performance.
- vii. 24% of the ambulance fleet is spare and hence available for use at any one time.
- viii. The West Midlands Ambulance Service used to be one of the worst performing areas, with the new model they were now one of the best.
- ix. The population growth in Oakham was noted; as the population grew, so would the ambulance provision.
- x. The new proposals would be self funding by the sale of old ambulance stations and land.

## **SCRUTINY**

### **520. QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2012/13**

Mr Begy introduced Report No: 214/2012 and noted that the biggest pressure point would be the adult social care budget.

In discussions the following points were raised:

- i. Rutland County Council were working with neighbouring authorities to ensure economies of scale.
- ii. The changes in welfare reform would increase pressure on budgets due to the needs of vulnerable people. Concern was expressed regarding changes in housing benefit.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 214/2012 be noted.

**521. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2012/13**

Mr Begy introduced report no: 216/2012.

In discussions the following points were raised:

- i. The support of vulnerable people was raised as an issue especially if they were involved in voluntary work which could affect their benefits. Rutland County Council were supporting such people to get work experience.
- ii. A question was raised concerning the time spent by staff on smoking breaks. Mr Begy agreed to raise this with the Chief Executive.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 216/2012 be noted.

**522. Q2 SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR ADULTS 2012/13**

Report No. 233/2012 from the Strategic Director for People, was received. Ms Poynton apologised to Members for the incorrect appendix that had been circulated with the report. Discussion on this would be deferred to the next meeting and the correct appendix would be circulated to Members.

It was noted that officers regularly monitored all training activities to ensure they met Care Quality Commission requirements. The increased number of cases may have resulted from improved reporting.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 233/2012 be noted.

**523. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC STATEMENT FOR RUTLAND 2012/13**

Report no 228/2012 was received from the Strategic Director for People. It was noted that the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board would continue until April 2013 when this would become a Committee of the Council. Between January and March 2013 a series of development sessions would be held to develop appropriate strategies and priorities to inform the Clinical Commissioning Group.

It was agreed that members of the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel would be kept informed of health developments and that Ms Haigh would attend the panel, as necessary.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 228/2012 be noted.

**524. PUBLIC HEALTH IN RUTLAND**

Report No. 227/2012 was received from the Strategic Director for People. Mrs Haigh noted that public health will be integrated into the Local Authority from April 2013, the Council are working closely with Leicestershire and Rutland Public Health Service on the transition. Rutland will have its own funding from April 2013 but would work closely with Leicestershire for the delivery of services.

In discussions the following points were raised

- i. The issue of knowing how many children from Rutland were referred to other authority's hospitals was raised; officers were working to obtain the necessary data to monitor this.
- ii. The relative level of funding for health in rural areas (compared to urban areas) was noted, this was something that the Scrutiny Panel should address in future meetings.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 227/2012 be noted

**525. CHILDREN'S CARDIAC SERVICE**

Mrs Stephenson updated the Panel on developments with the Children's Cardiac Service proposals. The principle was for a safe and sustainable service based on fewer more specialist centres. The Joint Scrutiny Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland would now support the appeal to the Secretary of State; a clinical case will be put forward to retain the existing facilities. A three phase review would be carried out and would use clinical evidence to challenge the proposals.

**Agreed:**

That the Scrutiny Panel note the update from Mrs Stephenson.

**526. CARER REVIEW**

Report No 232/2012 was received from the Strategic Director for People. Ms Chambers introduced the report. No issues or questions were raised by Members.

**Agreed:**

That the contents of Report No. 232/2012 be noted.

## **PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

### **527. REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan was circulated to members.

Items for future meetings should include:

- (i) Final budget setting in January 2013.
- (ii) Spire Homes should be invited to make a presentation.
- (iii) Feedback from the IRP on Cardiac Services.

### **528. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.

### **529. DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

28 February 2013 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.**

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