

Friday 13 January 2023



Chief Executive
Mark Andrews

WELCOME

Welcome back to our Fortnightly Members Briefing and happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone found some time over the festive break to switch off and recharge after what was a packed 12 months.

The year ahead promises to be equally busy and no less important than 2022. As ever, we start the year with our annual budget setting, which is one of several reports taken to Cabinet on Thursday 12 January.

As you will see from this week's briefing, we can also report on progress with our new corporate website, outstanding hospital discharge figures based on the latest available data for November 2022, and some promising partnership work in our Community Care Services with respect to dementia.

A positive start to the year then, with lots of work to do but plenty to look forward to.

Regards,
Mark



Strategic Director
of Resources
Sav Della Rocca



Director of Legal
& Governance
Angela Wakefield

SERVICE UPDATES

Corporate Services

- The Council switched off its old corporate website and went fully live with its website on Monday 9 January: www.rutland.gov.uk Feedback from users of the test site, which has including users who have identified as visually impaired, has been positive. We have acted on some of the feedback and made changes to improve the new website. We will continue to progress its development, including use of microsites.
- The Communications Service is supporting the Council's annual budget consultation, which this year runs from Friday 13 January to Friday 3 February. An online consultation questionnaire can be completed at: www.rutland.gov.uk/budget. Anyone without internet access will be able to take part by calling the council by phone.

Legal & Governance

Governance

- His Majesty The King's first New Years Honours list was recently published and Morcott resident Edwin Williams is to be honoured with a British Empire Medal for services to conservation and the community in Rutland. Mr Williams will be formally invested with his BEM by the Lord-Lieutenant in due course.
- Work is underway for the Governance stages of the Council's Budget-setting process, including initial consideration of the draft Budget by Cabinet and Scrutiny in January, followed by Cabinet and Council recommendation and approval of the final Budget.

Elections

- The Electoral Commission started their Voter ID Campaign on 6 January, detailing the requirement for electors to produce Photo ID in polling stations at Elections from May 2023 onwards. RCC will be supporting this campaign by publicising specific requirements as they are confirmed by the Electoral Commission. Although some information is already available on the Electoral Commission website, some process detail is still unknown. Some key points to note based on available info so far:
 - There will be a full list of what photo IDs will be accepted in polling stations (the most obvious being Passport and Driving Licence). This even goes as far as including expired IDs, providing the photograph remains a true likeness. For those without appropriate Photo ID, there will be the opportunity to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which will also be accepted at polling stations.
 - VACs applications will be hosted online in the first instance (GOV.UK website) and expected to begin from 19 January. For those unable to apply online, there will be a paper application route where people can request (or download) a paper application for the VAC. This can be sent to the Elections Office to be processed. The Electoral Commission are still working on the paper application form and we will publicise when it becomes available
 - Processing of paper applications will be carried out by the Elections Team. Along with online applications processed via the GOV.UK website, VACs will then be posted to individuals directly. The rollout of the VAC is tight. Our elections staff will receive training later this month (19 January) , after which we hope processes will become clearer.
 - The expectation is that most people will have suitable Photo ID and not require the VAC.
 - Candidates Campaign guidance has also been updated stating that candidates may also remind voters of the requirement for Photo ID.

Finance

- The Council's Draft Budget Report was published with papers for Cabinet on Thursday 12 January 2023. The report [can be read in full here](#).
- The Council's Insurance Tender (Annual Value of c£340k) closes on the 20 January. Evaluation is to be completed by 13 February, with an award by the 1 March and a contract start date of 1 April.

IT and Customer Services

- Testing has taken place in Customer Services around a new workflow for bulky waste collections
- We have been working with our supplier to understand why some cars are triggering alerts at our Household Waste and Recycling Centres, even though they are registered on our system. This appears to be resolved but we will monitor into the New Year.



Strategic Director of
Adults and Health
John Morley

SERVICE UPDATES

Adult Social Care

- Interviews are being held for a new Homes 4 Ukraine (H4U) Project Officer, following a successful recruitment campaign over the Christmas period. Our current postholder will move to another role in the council, keeping retention of staff a priority.
- New guidance is expected on funding for H4U. Apparently, we will not see it before it goes out in the public domain. We do know that the tariff is reduced to £5,900 per guest from £10,500 and 'thank-you' payments increasing to £500. Financially, as we stand, we are in a good position with our budget to manage these changes.
- Adult Social Care (ASC) has begun a six-month pilot scheme, which includes a redesign of our current teams to manage workflow and maintain our performance, alongside moving towards a more efficient and responsive service. Alongside this, we are also looking at a self-serve option for those who are requiring advice and information or to make an initial referral.

Hospital Services

- November 2022 data for Rutland showed that 100% of people discharged home were still at home 91 days after discharge. The average for England is 79.1%
- Two Occupational Therapy Assistants (new starters) in reablement commence their posts in early January, supporting the expansion of the reablement service offer to people being discharged home from hospital.
- The reablement Therapy team is supporting further integration between health and social care with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) early January to facilitate timely discharge home from Discharge to Assess beds at Rutland Care Village

Community Care Services

- The RISE service and Primary Care Network (PCN) are in the process of organising a series of local clinics for patients who have been identified as experiencing memory loss/issues with cognitive functioning but have no formal diagnosis of dementia. The project aims to support our most at-risk residents to live healthy and independent lives for as long as possible. People with dementia can experience a delay in getting the help they need as they wait for a formal diagnosis. This project aims to identify and meet support needs in a proactive, preventative way, while patients are waiting to be formally assessed/diagnosed.
- Members of the new Rutland Mental Health Neighbourhood group have developed their Terms of Reference. The group will present their Terms of reference for approval at the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 24 January, requesting to become a formal sub-group of the board.
- Our Clinical Care Home Coordinator is supporting all Rutland care homes to use the National Capacity Tracker. This is an online system that enables care homes to inform commissioners of their vacancies. This information helps to facilitate timely hospital discharges and ease the winter pressures seen in the health and social care system. We are actively encouraging commissioners to sign up for the Capacity Tracker, and our care homes to update the Capacity Tracker every 48hrs.
- For the first time, the NHS App is not only being used to send invitations to those eligible to come forward for seasonal vaccinations, but it can now be used to book or manage COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Integration between the App and the National Booking Service means it's now easier for App users who are eligible to get their COVID-19 vaccine this winter. It can be downloaded at: www.nhs.uk/nhsapp

Commissioning

- A Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Task and Finish Group has been established to design a model of delivery across LLR for a Single Point of Contact for Armed Forces Families. The project is funded by NHS England and will support Armed Forces families to navigate health systems and access the support they need.



Strategic Director of
Children and Families
Dawn Godfrey

SERVICE UPDATES

Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion

- [Ofsted have released their annual 2021/22 report](#), and in it references the following:

“Nearly 1.5 million school pupils are currently identified as having SEND, an increase of almost 77,000 in the year. But with the system under pressure, accurate identification is critical. We know that many children fell behind during the pandemic and need help to catch up, but nonetheless do not have SEND in the normal usage of the term. Labelling these children as having SEND is not right for them and also puts an unnecessary burden on the system.”

“There is a widespread recognition that effective mainstream education – particularly getting a good foundation early on – is integral to an effective SEND system. A sound curriculum and good teaching can prevent special educational needs from developing, or from worsening to the extent that specialist help is needed. However, the SEND system is widely seen as adversarial. This can encourage a rush to formal diagnosis, even in the early years. Yet diagnosis can lower expectations for children who might otherwise thrive with good education and some targeted support, freeing up specialist services for the children with complex and profound needs. As it is, a system that was struggling to cope well before COVID is creaking and ripe for long-promised reform”

Learning & Skills

- Back to school advice has been published to education settings about the high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever.
- The national closing date for applying for primary school for September 2023 was 15 January 2023. The Council wrote to parents who had not yet submitted their applications to remind them of the closing date.
- Rutland Adult Learning and Skills Service is supporting the community by providing ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages). A number of the ESOL learners, which includes Ukrainian refugees, have successfully passed their first qualification in English.
- We have successfully recruited an engagement officer who is working with our community and voluntary sector partners to design and deliver maths classes to upskill our communities, improving their prospects and outcomes by increasing their knowledge of maths.

Children's Social Care

- We are seeing an increase in concern regarding harm to adolescents in the area. There are two new websites to support young people, families and professionals with adolescent harm these are useful resources for our community.

The first is a local website is created by the Violence Reduction Network and has specific information on violent crime and exploitation with information for young people and parents/carers: livesafe.org.uk

There is also a regional website aimed at schools, again with resources and information: www.childexploitationeastmidlands.org.uk



Strategic Director
of Places
Penny Sharp

SERVICE UPDATES

Culture & Leisure

- Discover Rutland has published a provisional list of events taking place in Rutland in 2023: www.discover-rutland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Rutland-Events-list.pdf
- Following the adoption of the County's Events Policy, upcoming public events where more than 500 people are expected to attend should be notified by the event organisers to: events@rutland.gov.uk as well as events with VIPs, highways or community impacts. Full details are available [on the Council's events page](#)
- Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. We have events taking place at Oakham Castle & Rutland County Museum:
 - At Oakham Castle**, we have information on display that detail peoples' ordinary lives, life stories and poetry written by survivors, generating insightful comments about ethics and morality. Visitors are invited to reflect and write their thoughts and messages which will be displayed in the Castle.
 - At Rutland County Museum**, we have a free cinema screening in association with Arts4Rutland of the acclaimed film 'The Killing Fields'. Entry is free. The showing will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 27 January.
- Girls' school football in Rutland has continued to grow with the support of the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership (BGFSP), including thirteen schools attending the Schools Football League at Uppingham Community College. With nearly 140 players and football leaders involved it has become one of the biggest events in the Rutland School Sport calendar: www.activerutland.org.uk/girlsfootball

Safe & Active Communities

- Changes to Christmas refuse and recycling collections went smoothly. As usual, we are seeing increased tonnages of waste and recycling this month and residents are asked to think about minimising their waste (e.g. being mindful about using up leftover food), as well as composting and recycling as much as possible. The website www.lovefoodhatewaste.org.uk has lots of helpful tips.
- The Environment Agency is enforcing POPs (persistent organic pollutants) legislation. This began on 1 January 2023 and means that all upholstered seating will need to be incinerated to destroy POPs. There is a lot of concern within the industry as to how local authorities will be able to comply. We are in a better position than most as our residual waste already goes for incineration via an Energy from Waste facility.
- We are looking to remove batteries as a target material from grey recycling bins due to the risk of fires. There have been a number of recent fires (including one in a Melton refuse collection vehicle in September) and there are growing concerns across the industry. Appropriate communications will be released in due course. Residents will be able to use collection points at HWRCs and local shops as an alternative to their grey bin.
- Ongoing works by Severn Trent are impacting upon access to North Luffenham HWRC over the next eight weeks. Residents wishing to use the sites should follow the diversion signs.
- Weather forecasts were monitored 24/7 over the festive period. Our winter gritting crews from our partners Tarmac were called out on two occasions to complete two gritting runs on the 26 December, keeping our roads safe for the traveling public.

ENDS