

Friday 17 February 2023



Strategic Director
of Resources
Sav Della Rocca



Director of Legal
& Governance
Angela Wakefield

SERVICE UPDATES

Corporate Services

- The Rutland Information Service (RIS) is a separate website to the main Council website and has been developed to provide information about services and support available for adults, children and families in one place. The website supports statutory duties to make this information publicly available in a single location, including the Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As part of our transformation of digital services we have begun a new project to look at how the RIS can be incorporated into our new website with the aim of improving accessibility of the information on the RIS, reducing costs and minimising the number of online access points for residents. We aim to have completed this work by summer 2023.
- Consultation on the Council's latest draft budget, which had been supported by the Communications Service, has now closed. The consultation saw a healthy response from residents and the results were included as part of the report to Cabinet on Tuesday 14 February, prior to Budget Council on Monday 27 February,

Human Resources

- We are starting to see an increase in the level of applications for our vacancies, compared to last summer. We have also seen services report through the Portfolio Briefings of some good successes with internal movement and development. This is good news for our frontline services, such as Community Support.
- Our Senior HR Adviser attended a recent Local Skills Improvement Plan focus group led by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). This is a new project to assess and realign skills supply and demands across Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland. The purpose of the focus group is to help inform research on issues, needs and frustration on local skills supply we may be facing as a large employer within Rutland.

Legal & Governance

Governance

- It has been agreed that Cabinet on Tuesday 7 March will take place at Rutland County Museum. This is to allow the Council Chamber to be used by the Planning service as part of the Inquiry into application 2022/0796/MAO. The move to the museum will mean that the webcast of the meeting will be audio only, as with previous meetings held in the Museum. These matters will be communicated to the public via the usual publicity and via the agenda published on the Council's website.
- Buckingham Palace has announced [further details](#) on the ceremonial, celebratory and community events that will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday 6 and Monday 8 May 2023. Internal conversations are taking place between Council staff and the Rutland Lieutenancy regarding local implementation, with appropriate publicity going out in due course.
- HM King Charles III has announced the dates for two garden parties on 3 and 9 May 2023. The Rutland Lieutenancy have received their allocation of places and is working on the next steps,

Elections

- The nation Voter ID Campaign is now live. We have received our first applications for Voter Authority Certificates through the GOV.UK portal and these have been processed. We expect more as we get closer to May's elections.
- Planning for the upcoming Market Overton Neighbourhood Plan Referendum and May's Local Elections continues.

IT and Customer Services

- Green waste is now live and customer services are taking calls for customers that are renewing or having a new subscription. Over 7,000 direct debit renewals have been sent out and around 3,000 one-off renewal letters will arrive this week and next.
- We have trialled, as a very small pilot, the ability for customers to use an automatic chat facility to look up their waste day of collection. This is likely to be part of the scope for the transformation work.



Strategic Director of
Adults and Health
John Morley

SERVICE UPDATES

Adult Social Care

- Homelessness has seen a slight increase of in-person presentations at the front door. Our team are adjusting working processes to accommodate this.
- There is now a new version of the 'Adult Needs Assessment' within our Adult Social Care database. Practitioners from across the service have been involved in the development of this new assessment, which launched on Monday 30 January. The most significant change is that we are focusing on the person accessing support by recording a conversation-based approach with the person, while maintaining compliance with the Care Act.

Hospital Services

- The Falls prevention programme is continuing to be rolled out. Its effectiveness continues to be demonstrated with no reported hip fractures in December 2022 within the care home population of Rutland.
- Longhurst Group have been successful in securing the Assistive Technology contract and we will be commencing mobilisation in the coming weeks.
- Our commissioned partners are continuing to lead on research concerning the digital switchover, working closely with the TSA (the industry and advisory body for technology enabled care) and exploring concerns such as rurality and network coverage.
- The additional 'Winter beds' (procured on a temporary basis to support timely discharge from acute hospitals) continue to be fully occupied and are promoting greater integration with our health colleagues. This allows us to offer combined therapy input enabling earlier implementation of reablement goals to support a smooth transition back to their own homes.

Community Care Services

- Following an in-depth analysis of the feedback received via a survey and dedicated focus groups, conducted by Ipsos Mori, the national NHS England and Health Education England mental health teams are delighted to announce that a new name for IAPT services has been chosen and approved: **NHS Talking Therapies**. This name will be rolled out in all services across England in 2023, following [NHS branding guidelines](#). It will be accompanied by the following tagline: **for anxiety and depression**. This rebranding exercise will be critical in raising the profile of the services and removing barriers to access.
- An enhanced Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Community Pharmacy Service is working to supply on-demand palliative care and other specialist medication. The aim of this enhanced service is for urgent access to end-of-life medicines when anticipatory supply has not been undertaken. It is also used for urgent supply of antibiotics specific to certain pathways.
- An information session about the Crisis Café grant scheme will be happening on Tuesday 7 March at 1pm. Further details on the scheme and the link for booking on to the session can be found on the VAL website: valonline.org.uk/crisis-cafe-grants/. The deadline for application submissions is 5pm on Friday 10 March.



Strategic Director of
Children and Families
Dawn Godfrey

SERVICE UPDATES

Learning & Skills

- The NEU (National Education Union) has confirmed that teachers will strike over the next few months, having started on Wednesday 1 February. It is best practice for headteachers to consult governors, parents and the Local Authority, academy trust or diocesan representative (where appropriate) before deciding whether to close.
- The most recent data sent to the DfE, indicates that Rutland sits at the top of the East Midlands table for 16-17 year olds who are in Education or training. This figure currently stands at 97.4%.
- The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) plays an important role in providing Rutland County Council with information about childcare availability, accessibility and affordability. We are committed to ensuring there is sufficient childcare across the county, which supports families in accessing their full entitlement to early education and childcare. The aim of the Rutland CSA is to have an accurate understanding of the current childcare market, gathered through parental and carer views. This includes their experiences of accessing childcare and use of available financial entitlements, such as Tax-Free Childcare. In addition, engagement with Rutland businesses will provide us with information on how sufficiency of childcare places impacts recruitment and retention. We encourage all parents, carers and businesses to respond to the survey, so the information gathered represents Rutland as a whole. This information is then used to plan for and respond more effectively to areas of identified need. The consultation runs from Monday 13 February until Friday 10 March 2023 and [can be completed online, here](#). For more information please contact Rutland County Council on EducationalDevelopment@Rutland.gov.uk

Children's Social Care

- Our Children's Social Care have had a focused visit from Ofsted. The full report will be available at the end of February. Overall, the visit highlighted areas that we are already working on and are included in our development plan.
- The Government has published a response to recommendations made by three independent reviews into the tragic murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion

- Rutland's Inclusion Service is working with partners to develop a three-year pathway programme of support for all Rutland schools that meets the needs of young people experiencing issues of school avoidance due to their mental health and well-being. The team surveyed parents and school staffs to understand the level of need, with 75 responses from school staff and 91 parental responses. Focus groups and individual interviews have taken place with parent volunteers who have had experiences with their own children, to help shape the programme. A Steering Group is in place, to drive the development of the programme. Attendees include a primary and secondary school representatives, two parents, a local GP mental health specialist, a social care colleague and the Schools Support Partnership co-ordinator. Free training for all schools will be rolled out in February 2023, with 100% sign up for two attendees from each school.
- The Aiming High service have been running a popular monthly Boccia session for several years and recently approached Special Olympics to discuss how to get more people involved in this inclusive sport. Special Olympics are now running a Boccia session every Tuesday from 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Active Rutland Hub. The sessions are for all ages (children and adults), with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). One of the young adults attending the sessions said: "Boccia is a paralympic version of bowls with soft balls. The aim is to get your team's-coloured balls (red or blue) closest to the jack (white ball). Anyone can play - any age and ability! Its great fun and challenging so come along!"
- Students at Oakham School recently organised another [PHAB](#) session to celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year with 10 children and young people with SEND attending. Phab is a national charity which inspire disabled and non-disabled children, young people and adults to make more of life together. The students at Oakham school work with the Rutland Disabled Youth Forum to plan and run social sessions 3 or 4 times a year. The sessions are a great opportunity for children and young people to increase their awareness and understanding of each other's lives, build social skills and make friends. A young person commented 'I like just chilling with everyone and doing the activities together. We are all getting to know each other better now.'



Strategic Director
of Places
Penny Sharp

SERVICE UPDATES

Safe & Active Communities

- Modeshift STARS is the Centre of Excellence for the delivery of Effective Travel Plans in Education, Business and Community settings. [STARS Accreditation applications](#) for local schools have been quality assured, approved at the Rutland County Council level and submitted to Modeshift. We are waiting for Modeshift approval and then accreditation award certificates will be sent directly to the schools. This will provide a good opportunity for publicity across social media, newsletters and council channels (website and meetings):
 - St Nicholas – Bronze
 - Catmose – Bronze
 - Ryhall – Bronze
 - Cottesmore – Green
 - Uppingham – Green
 - Langham – Green
- [PWLC](#) colleagues have delivered pupil training sessions at English Martyrs, Cottesmore, St Nicholas, Catmose, and Langham. These were mainly scooter training sessions covering year groups not covered by the council sessions. In one case, (Cottesmore) she led a road safety session with Year 1 at the school's request. We will add these activities to the schools STARS accreditation plans so that it contributes to accreditation applications.

Culture & Leisure

- Greetham Valley is currently applying to renew their registration as a marriage and civil partnership venue, the application is live [on the Council's website](#).
- The Marriage & Civil Partnership (minimum age) Act 2022 will come into force on 27 February 2023, meaning that a person under 18 years of age will no longer be able to marry or enter into a civil partnership.
- Oakham Library produced displays to run alongside Children's Mental Health Week (6 to 12 February), publicising its [Reading Well Mental Health Collections](#) for Children, as well as the newly updated Reading Well for Teens collection. The [Reading Well for teens book collection](#) offers teenagers quality-assured, clinically informed information and advice to help them understand and manage their emotions and cope with difficult times. Find out more: www.reading-well.org.uk

Sustainable Economy and Place

- We have published an interactive map showing the sites which have been submitted to us for consideration through the Local Plan Call for Sites. You can view the interactive map here: [Call for Sites \(February 2022\)](#). Please be aware that submission of a site does not mean it will be allocated within the Local Plan, or that it will obtain permission for development. Submitted sites have no weight or status in planning terms. All sites will be objectively assessed to identify which might be suitable, sustainable, and deliverable. Following careful assessment, the sites that are considered most appropriate to help Rutland meet its future development needs will be subject to public consultation as part of the 'Preferred Options' stage of developing Rutland's new Local Plan. This consultation is expected to take place in early Autumn 2023.
- We have been offered £23m Levelling Up Funding by Government. This is the full amount requested for our Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid. We will be taking a paper to Council regarding the offer and next steps. If accepted, this will help address the economic trends of decline which shows Rutland's economy has shrunk by -8% against National UK average of -2%. LUF Projects align well with issues from the economic baselining work and would support growth in the Research & Development, Science and Technology Sector, Visitor Economy and transformational change in public transport, consequently also helping us deliver on carbon net zero.
- A Planning Inquiry is set to take place on 28 February for up to eight days and will now take place in the Council Chambers. The Planning Inspectorate will be looking at the 500 homes Land West of Barleythorpe application 2022/0796/MAO.

ENDS