

SCRUTINY COMMISSION RURAL FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
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Report of the Director of Children's Services

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Ensuring that children and young people living in rural communities within Peterborough achieve success and that all of their Every Child Matters outcomes improve.

1. PURPOSE

This report is to allow the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities to scrutinise how Children's Services are being transformed and the impact that new ways of working and delivering services will have on children and young people in rural communities in Peterborough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the commission scrutinises the progress in developing services for children, young people and families in rural areas and to make further recommendations to develop these services.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Ensuring that the right services are provided in the right place for people living in rural communities is fundamental to the Corporate Plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. The particular needs of rural communities need to be recognised and services tailored to these needs.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities requested a report on the provision of services to children and young people in the rural areas of the city and the impact of these services on outcomes. Children's Services is the lead council department for the provision of these services. Services to children and young people can be grouped into three main categories:

- **Universal** provision that is offered and available to **all** children and young people for example schools, early years settings and children's centres.
- **Targeted** and preventative services that are focussed on areas or groups of children who, without early intervention and preventative services, are likely to have poor outcomes. This includes the play centres and targeted youth support.
- **Specialist** Services which are focussed on children with **complex** and high level of needs including the Youth Offending Service and Children's Social Care.

- 4.2 Children’s Services is currently undergoing a major transformation programme designed to improve the delivery of services to children, young people and their families and improved Every Child Matters outcomes. This transformation programme is called ‘Delivering through Localities’ and the proposals are out for consultation currently. The planned new way of working in Children’s Services involves delivering services directly to children, young people and families where they live and/or go to school. To ensure that services are directed to local people, the city is divided into three localities: 1) The South; 2) Central and East and; 3) The North-West and Rural area – these localities are coterminous with both Neighbourhood Investment and Police areas so that support for families and neighbourhoods is maximised.
- 4.3 Children’s Services have reviewed their service delivery and are proposing to realign their work so that teams may be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of communities. For example, some Children’s Services teams may now be physically based in the North-West and Rural locality (locality-based); some teams will change the way they operate by focusing more on the needs of that particular locality (locality-faced). Alongside this work a number of teams will link together to form ‘natural alliances’ in order to sharpen support for children and young people. For example there will be integrated teams for children with disabilities, children in need, children in care, 14-19 education and youth services, early years and children’s centres and alternative learning provision.
- 4.4 This way of working will ensure that services meet the needs of rural communities more effectively. An important element of the ‘Delivering through Localities’ project is to ensure that schools across the city have swift and easy access to services and resources. The North-West and Rural locality will consist of four clusters of schools including primary, special and secondary schools: the Jack Hunt Cluster, the Voyager Cluster, the Werrington Cluster and the Rural Cluster. Children’s Services recognise the role of Headteachers and chairs of governors as leaders of Children’s Services and the role of schools as central to improving all Every Child Matters outcomes.

5. KEY ISSUES

The overarching Children’s Services priority is to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people across the city and to narrow the gap between those achieving the best and the worst outcomes. Educational attainment is a key outcome for Children’s Services and very indicative of a successful partnership between Children’s Services, local schools and the local community in working together to support children and young people. The data within this report indicates that children and young people in the North-West and Rural area are doing well.

5.1 EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN RURAL WARDS

National Indicator 72 records achievement across the Early Years Foundation Stage in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication and Language and Literacy (CLLD). This assessment takes place in Reception Classes when children are 5 years old. There are currently 2240 children in reception classes with 11% living in the rural wards (223 children).

	National	Peterborough	Rural Wards	Non rural wards
NI072	52%	47.3%	69.5%	44.6%

Table shows child achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage of at least 78 points with at least a score of 6 in each of the scales in CLLD and PSED.

- 5.1.1 In terms of narrowing the gap, of the 223 children living in the rural wards, 9.9% are in the poorest achieving 20% cohort of the city, this compares with 21.9% for the rest of the city.
- 5.1.2 Outcomes at Key Stage 2 (Year 6 in primary schools when children are 10/11 years old) in the rural areas also exceeds both Peterborough and national averages as shown overpage:

Key Stage 2 - % achieving level 4+ in English & Maths

WARD	Average Cohort	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barnack	28	96.8	96.2	85.3	85.2	90.0
Eye and Thorney	67	81.5	65.8	78.9	76.1	78.6
Glington and Wittering	74	77.8	86.1	79.0	83.3	87.7
Newborough	25	68.0	67.7	80.0	81.0	76.7
Northborough	25	87.1	66.7	83.3	77.3	82.6
Rural Average	219	81.3	76.9	80.4	80.4	83.4
Peterborough Average	2174	65.9	67.5	68.4	69.4	68.9
National Average		69	70	71	73	72

This difference in educational outcomes has been maintained over the last few years as shown below:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rural Average	81.3	76.9	80.4	80.4	83.4
Peterborough Average	65.9	67.5	68.4	69.4	68.9
National Average	69.0	70.0	71.0	73.0	72.0

The table below shows the GCSE results for the rural wards:

GCSE - % achieving 5+ A*-C including English & Maths

WARD	Average Cohort	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barnack	23	59.1	75.0	79.2	60.0	69.6
Eye and Thorney	48	37.5	44.0	47.2	40.0	63.8
Glington and Wittering	64	63.3	61.6	64.2	56.1	65.1
Newborough	33	69.4	46.7	40.5	62.1	60.6
Northborough	20	61.5	62.5	70.0	58.8	52.6
Rural Average	188	57.1	56.2	58.2	53.8	63.2
Peterborough Average	2216	38.8	39.2	37.7	37.1	40.0
National Average		45	46	46	48	50

Again, the trend is that children and young people from rural areas do better in Peterborough:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rural Average	57.1	56.2	58.2	53.8	63.2
Peterborough Average	38.8	39.2	37.7	37.1	40.0
National Average	44.9	45.8	46.3	47.6	49.7

Other indicators that impact on families and support the narrowing of the gap for vulnerable children and young people also indicate that rural areas are doing relatively well. Rural wards have the second highest average weekly household income, the lowest rate of unemployment (2.7% compared to the city average of 5.4%) and the lowest % of children (0-15) who are dependent on workless benefits (9% city average 24%).

5.2 RURAL SERVICES

5.2.1 Children's Centres

Children's Centres are funded through the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Their purpose is to provide the best start to life for children and they are focused on parents with children who are under 5 years old. The core offer provided from Children's Centres is to provide:

- access to health services
- family support
- play and learning opportunities
- good links with job centre plus.

5.2.2 The average number of children expected to be supported by a Children's Centre is 800 and services delivered at Children's Centres are expected to include health visiting, midwifery, and family support.

5.2.3 The target for the city of Peterborough is 15 Children's Centres. In the rural area, there will be two Children's Centres; East Rural Children's Centre, supporting Eye and Duke of Bedford catchment areas, and West Rural, which will be based at and run by Wittering Primary School.

5.2.4 The East Rural Children's Centre is progressing well and is on target to be completed by April 2010. The buildings will re-house existing after-school childcare provision at both schools, as well as the Eye Pre-School, in addition to being used by the Children's Centre staff team. The team is currently delivering groups for children under 5 years of age at the Eye Youth Club building and in the Bull Hotel, Newborough, on a weekly basis, as well as a childminder group at Eye. A family support worker from the Children's Centre provides additional support to parents at the health visitor clinics in each village. From January 2010 baby massage will be available at each village on a rolling basis, for 3 weeks at a time. Parents who are deemed at a higher risk of post-natal depression and isolation will be given priority by the nursery nurse working in the area. The process to recruit a coordinator for this team has been started with the new Children's Services management structure being implemented from April 2010.

5.2.5 Management of the West Rural Children's Centre has now been transferred to Wittering Primary School. An Advisory Board is being established and plans for capital development and the employment of a coordinator are progressing well. There is currently a group for children under 5 years of age, delivered from the primary school, and previously from the community centre at RAF Wittering, where good links have been established with welfare staff. Family support and outreach is currently provided in the same manner and by the same staff as in East Rural, also incorporating the local health visitor clinic.

5.2.6 Early Years & Childcare Provision in the rural areas:

There are a number of pre-schools and nursery providers within the rural communities to allow parents to access childcare to meet working parents' needs and/or solely the 15 hours funded element which each child is entitled to from the term following their 3rd birthday.

5.2.7 Pre-School providers in the rural areas which operate term time only are:

- Barnack Pre-School
- Castor & Ailsworth Pre-School
- Eye Pre-School
- Flying Start Pre-School, Wittering
- Glinton Pre-School
- Helpston Playhouse & Under 5s
- Newborough Pre-School
- Sunflower Seeds Pre-School, Northborough
- Thorney Pre-School

- 5.2.8 There are also full day care providers which offer care all the year round from 8am – 6pm to meet the needs of working parents:
- First Steps Nursery, Maxey
 - Flying Start Daycare, Wittering
 - Rugrats, Wittering
 - Smiley Faces Day Nursery, Thorney
 - The Teddy Bears Inn Day Nursery, Newborough
 - Toddlers Inn Day Nursery, Eye
- 5.2.9 The Childcare Sufficiency update undertaken in April 2009 showed occupancy of 0-5 childcare provision in the rural area is below the city average, at 60%, compared to the city average of 71%. Sustainability remains a constant threat though to rural providers due to changing cohorts and catchment areas of children.
- 5.2.10 Extended Schools**
- By September 2010, Peterborough City Council has a target that 100% of its schools are extended schools. The core offer for extended schools is to provide:
- Pre-and after school care (if it is economically feasible), the school should provide childcare from 8am to 6pm for 48 weeks of the year
 - Rich and varied menu of activities
 - Parenting support
 - Swift and easy access to services
 - Community access to adult learning
- 5.2.11 This does not mean that each individual school has to provide all of the core activities, but that there are services which they can signpost. Funding has been devolved to the rural cluster of schools to deliver this agenda.
- 5.2.12 Arthur Mellows Village College (AMVC) has now taken on the cluster coordination function, providing some staff-time for administration and monitoring purposes to the cluster of schools and providing a link to the Local Authority.
- 5.2.13 A number of after-school events have been run in the cluster over the last 12 months for pupils in years 5, 6 and 7 at AMVC, enabling younger children to meet and interact with staff and students at AMVC, as well as to participate in activities (such as science experiments, technology workshops, cooking and music activities) that they do not have the chance to participate in at the present time.
- 5.2.14 In addition, funding has been used to provide 2 late buses (leaving at 5pm) on Tuesday evenings from AMVC to the feeder villages, enabling students who are dependent upon public transport to take advantage of a range of after-school activities run at the College.
- 5.2.15 The Schools are currently developing a plan for the coming year with activities for children and young people aimed at building confidence and giving them alternative experiences in which to perform on different stages. There are also plans to look at the longer term sustainability of the bus transport.
- 5.2.16 The Schools have been using Parent Support Advisors, funded by Extended Schools, for almost 12 months (since Feb 2009). During that time, they have worked with many families referred to them by schools, and have attended school coffee mornings, transition evenings and other events, to build up relationships with parents. They are currently midway through the delivery of a behaviour management course for parents at the Duke of Bedford School in Thorney.
- 5.2.17 Finally, some small scale funding has been made available to support local projects including assistance with start-up costs for youth clubs in Castor and Glinton.

5.2.18 The Young People's Service:

Year 10 students in AMVC are provided with consistent Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) by the Universal Personal Advisor. The Targeted Activities Programme key worker has begun working one lunch time per week in the school offering additional support to students identified by the school.

5.2.19 Glinton Youth Club takes place in term time on a Tuesday evenings run by volunteers and is supported with training, advice and guidance and quality assurance systems by the Young People's Team. There is a good working relationship with the neighbourhood police team and the Police Community Support Officers visit the club regularly.

5.2.20 In terms of Community Based Youth Work, Eye & Thorney ward is a priority. Currently Eye Youth Club is run on Monday evenings (term time) at Eye Young People's Development Centre. An Eye & Thorney Community Based Youth Worker has recently been appointed and is supported by an 18hr per week Youth Support Worker. There are currently youth worker vacancies equivalent to 94hrs per week and therefore, it is not possible to expand the Eye & Thorney youth work at the moment. However, it is planned that the centre will be fully staffed by Easter 2010. Finding suitable venues in Thorney is an issue for the service.

5.2.21 Eye Youth Club has been extremely successful in gaining Youth Opportunity Funding, via Peterborough Youth Bank, to support young people's plans and ideas. The service is represented by the North-West and Rural Locality Manager at both police panels and the rural neighbourhood council.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There have been increases in resources going into the rural wards over the last couple of years. Unsurprisingly the major barriers facing the Children's Services Department in delivering services to rural areas are transport and the relatively small number of children which makes it more expensive to deliver services.

6.2 Most children and young people, living in the rural wards, are doing well and this should be recognised and celebrated. The major priority in the rural wards is to identify those children who are at risk of poor outcomes and to target resources at these vulnerable groups as early as possible.

6.3 The integrated processes framework is vital in responding to vulnerable children and young people. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Co-ordinator for the locality will be supporting organisations across the locality in assessing the needs of children/young people where there are concerns and ensuring that there are personalised action plans for individual children and young people. This does depend on all organisations, statutory and voluntary, working together to respond to the needs of children and young people.

7. CONSULTATION

Day to day consultation with families and young people is an integral part of the service. However, no consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcome is that there will be better integration of services and that services will be organised around the individual needs of the child and young person.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 The Children's Services Department will, over the next few months, be appointing a Head of Children Locality Services. Together with the locality manager for 8-19 and the locality manager for 0-7, the post holder will have the responsibility for delivering a co-ordinated approach to Children's Services within the north-west and rural locality. All of this work will be overseen by an Assistant Director with responsibility for the children's health portfolio.
- 9.2 The Scrutiny Commission may wish to have a further report in 12 months time on the impact of this new service on outcomes for children and young people in rural areas.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Transforming Children's Services Consultation document.

11. APPENDICES

None.

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