

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 6 JUNE 2023
QUESTIONS ASKED BY AN ELECTED MEMBER UNDER
STANDING ORDER 7

Question asked by Mr. P. King:

“Parent and carers in the Market Harborough West and Foxton division have informed me that they are increasingly concerned about the provision of respite care for parents of children with special needs in the Market Harborough area. Recently, both Melton and Glenfield respite centres run by Praxis Care were closed overnight by Ofsted on the 1st of December 2022 due to safeguarding issues.

Parents carers are concerned that despite repeated attempts to secure alternative provision nothing has been put in place as yet, to enable regular respite for parents/carers from their often highly complex, stressful and demanding carer roles.

Residents have asked me to ask what policies and procedures Leicestershire County Council has in place for when services like this are closed through emergency measures?

And what are children’s services doing to help affected parents/carers, and especially those in the Market Harborough West and Foxton locality?”

Reply by the Chairman:

When Ofsted places a Children’s provision into special measures, as Praxis has been, then the Local Authority has processes and procedures in place to ensure quality assurance of provision and appropriate action is taken in respect of any children living at or accessing the service. These process and procedures were activated as soon as Praxis Care was put into special measures.

Since the closure of PRAXIS, the children’s social care team have been working with children and families to review their packages of short break support. Where possible the Department has commissioned alternative packages, including where suitable, overnight care in the family home to support the child and their family. The Department is continuing to seek alternative provision that will support the children and their families in the local area, whilst longer term solutions are put in place.

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