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Dear Roger, my apologies, I am unable to use the consultation portal. Please can you confirm receipt of the below?

Kind Regards
MP

Across the UK in 1966, it was estimated that 1 in 2,500 children had autism. In 1987, it was estimated that 1 in 1400 children had autism. In 2000, it was estimated that 1 in 150 children had autism. In 2017 it was estimated that 1 in 68 children had autism. In 2024, it is estimated that 1 in 29 children have autism. These are national figures, issued by central government as despite numerous requests, equivalent figures within Rutland are not available from Rutland County Council. However, it is safe to assume that there is no reason why Rutland should differ from the rest of the UK.

There are several hypotheses put forward for the increase in the prevalence of Autism in the UK and the most robust medical journals (BMJ, Lancet) are unable to give a definitive reason as to why the rate is increasing so significantly. However, one conclusion can be drawn from this data that should be a concern for all local authorities – and should be planned for now; **we are looking at a tsunami wave of people with ASD diagnoses working their way into adulthood, and Rutland is not immune to this.**

Depending on where they are on the spectrum, some children will be able to function and thrive independently in adult society. But many will need assistance of various forms, and at the moment, **Rutland does not have the accommodation, infrastructure or services available to support them and provide for their needs.** We know this to be the case as we are parents of a profoundly autistic young adult living in Rutland. Many programs and services have been built out to support children with ASD, but far fewer exist for adults. This population faces significant challenges to address health care needs, also referred to as the 'services cliff,' in part due to lack of comprehensive or integrated services and accommodations in adult care.

Within The Rutland Plan, we have the opportunity now to plan for the most vulnerable within this wave of autistic children moving into adulthood. The Rutland Plan should include specialist Supported Living for profoundly autistic young adults, learning from what other counties have already achieved (such as Linden Farm in Surrey <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/disability-66474640>). Inclusion of such a facility with Rutland would align to the following strategic objectives found within the draft plan:

- Strategic Objective 3: Meeting Housing Needs, by meeting a future, diverse need with the provision of specially adapted housing
- Strategic Objective 5: Supporting Healthy and Vibrant Communities, ensuring development supports physical health, mental health and well being for all
- Strategic Objective 9: Make Effective Use of Land. A site for development can be identified which can re-use or refurbish existing buildings, remediating degraded or derelict land.

The planning team at Rutland know that there is a group of parents of young people with autism who can provide drive to achieve something special for some of Rutland's most vulnerable. A business case exists which shows this to be cost effective and save RCC

money in the medium term. Please engage with us and include this within you Rutland Plan.



On 21 Nov 2024, at 14:00, Local Plan <Localplan@rutland.gov.uk> wrote:

Rutland Local Plan – Notification of Pre-submission consultation - Reminder

I am writing to notify you that public consultation on the new Rutland Local Plan closes on **Monday 2nd December 2024 at 4pm**, following its commencement on **Monday 21st October 2024**.

Consultation documents and the online consultation portal can be accessed on the Council's [Local Plan website](#).

If you have commented at previous consultation stages, you should use your existing Opus account. This will allow you to submit representations to the latest consultation as well as see what you have said previously. If you have forgotten your login details, you will be able to reset them using your email address.

This latest consultation stage offers a final chance to comment on whether the Plan is legally compliant and 'sound'. To be sound, the Local Plan must be:

- positively prepared;
- justified;
- effective and;
- consistent with national planning policy.

All representations made to the Regulation 19 consultation will be submitted along with the Local Plan and its supporting documentation for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. If the Plan is found to be sound, it will then be presented back to Rutland County Council's Full Council for adoption.

The attached Statement of Representation Procedure – Reg 19 sets out how the consultation documents can be viewed, how to submit representations and who to contact for further information.

Kind regards

Roger Ranson

Planning Policy and Housing Manager

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Email Enquiries: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

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<Statement of Reps Procedure - Reg 19 _ Rutlandv2.pdf>