



PERFORMANCE MONITORING OF COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Local Committee for Mole Valley 20 July 2005

SERVICE AREAS:

Members have met with service managers on two occasions (16 December 2004; 13 April 2005) to monitor the performance of county services locally. The following reports have been considered:

Waste Consultation and Mineral Zones; Early Years Development; Educational Attainment; and Looked After Children.

A summary of discussions with the Library Service manager (on 14 January) were reported to this committee on 2 February.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS:

Waste Consultation and Mineral Zones – On the 16 December 2004 Members agreed to invite an officer to the next meeting of the Partnership Group (February 2005) to discuss the current waste consultation paper, and agree a joint county / district response if appropriate.

A summary of discussions at the Partnership Group were as follows:

The Chairman welcomed Hilary Herbert from SCC. The Group noted and discussed a paper which explained that SCC had launched a consultation around four Issues Papers on the future approach to waste management and the identification of sites at which waste management activity could be undertaken. The Group acknowledged that the issues discussed at this item would be the same as for item 8.

Hilary Herbert outlined the key issues and the approach to waste management set out in the papers, and encouraged the group to respond via the on-line consultation mechanism.

She explained that the process was at the information gathering stage and that the consultation has been extended to the end of February. Following responses to the Issues Papers, a Development Plan Document would be published in October that would explain the County's preferred approach to the provision of waste related development in Surrey.

Members agreed that as the current proposals only affect the three southern divisions, individual Members would make representation.

Early Years Development -

Members met with Melanie Shires (Head of Childcare and Family Support) and Jacky Wallace (Childcare Development Manager) on the 16 December 2004 to discuss current early years provision in the Mole Valley area. Officers agreed to provide Members with a list of provision in the area, with the agreement that Members would identify any gaps in provision and feed this back to officers. Members also agreed that they would consider writing proactively to all known settings to publicise the support of the early years and childcare partnership. Jim Smith and Bob McKinley agreed that they would provide additional capital contribution to the Playaway Pre-School in Fetcham.

Educational Attainment – Melanie Harris (Local Education Officer) outlined broad issues of concern and note, and talked with Members about specific schools and actions in place to deal with improving educational attainment.

Looked After Children – Members met with Liz Woolford (Development Manager for Looked After Children) and Peter Richards (Team Manager of the Children's Team, East Surrey) on the 13 April 2005 to consider a report on Looked After Children in Mole Valley. Officers outlined the corporate parentship role of the county council and its duty to promote health as well as education. Members welcomed the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the issues associated with Looked After Children. In particular, Members welcomed the efforts of the service to focus much more on early intervention and prevention through kinship care for example. Members said the topic of Looked After Children would make a good presentation to the Local Committee, and would help Members fulfil their advocacy role.

KEY POINTS OF NOTE:

The committee is asked to note:

- (i) **that Members continue to be updated and involved locally in the waste management consultation and possible site identification, and respond on an individual basis to the Development Plan Document.**
- (ii) **That gaps in Early Years provision known by Members continue to be fed back to Early Years officers and proactive publicity for support of the service continue.**
- (iii) **That Members take the opportunity to visit schools in their wards with Education officers as appropriate, to acquaint themselves with issues of note.**
- (iv) **That Members consider 'follow up' awareness sessions related to Looked After Children and Children's Services to ensure an understanding of the complex issues and Members' advocacy role.**

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