



## **SCC Local Committee (Surrey Heath)**

### **Local Area Profile 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

#### **KEY ISSUE:**

This report updates the Committee on the demographic characteristics of the Surrey Heath area based on recently published data, to provide a context for work and to inform any community initiatives which may come forward.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The report highlights key statistical data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation update of December 2007, The Changing Face of Surrey and Surrey PCT's Public Health Strategic Needs Assessment 2007. It looks at the characteristics of the borough in a national and county context, and highlights partnership work undertaken in previously identified areas of Old Dean and St Michael's.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The report is for information only.**

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Census of Population 2001 (OPCS) Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (DCLG) The Changing Face of Surrey (SCC Policy & Performance Directorate) Public Health Report 2007 (Surrey PCT)

#### **INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

1. This report gives an overview of the characteristics of the Surrey Heath area, based on various sets of data collected by Government and others.
2. The Government published its latest version of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) in December 2007. The IMD 2007 refreshes the IMD 2004 and uses seven key headings or domains indicating a particular need or lack in the population. People may be counted in one or more of the domains, depending on the number of types of deprivation they experience. Extensive consultation with local authority associations was undertaken at the time these domains were defined for IMD 2004. Each domain has a different weighting in the overall score, so they

are not all equal in terms of importance. The domains are (in order of significance):

- Income
- Employment
- Health Deprivation & Disability
- Education, Skills & Training
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Crime
- Living Environment

3. Within these seven domains there are 37 individual data sets or indicators, including benefits and unemployment claims, hospital admissions, mortality rates, crime figures, housing amenities (inside WC, central heating), road traffic accidents etc. There are also two sub-sets of the Income domain:
  - Income Deprivation affecting Children
  - Income Deprivation affecting Older People.
 The first of these data sets was used by Children's Services county-wide to identify where Sure Start childrens' centres should be located.
4. Surrey PCT published its Public Health Report in late 2007.
5. In 2000, Surrey County Council agreed its Self-Reliance Policy which used Census and IMD data to target areas which scored highly in a Surrey context in the IMD. These areas were targeted with funding for co-ordinated partnership work to develop sustainable integrated solutions which would address identified needs. There were no such areas within Surrey Heath.
6. The County Council's self-reliance policy's stated aims are to:
  - Target help on disadvantaged individuals and communities so that they can become more self-reliant and enjoy a better quality of life;
  - Work at long term solutions which will break the dependency cycle;
  - Work in partnership with other government organisations, the business community and the voluntary sector.
7. Recently Surrey Police has moved to a neighbourhood focus, at the same time as the Department for Communities and Local Government has published guidance about developing and empowering neighbourhoods. The "Safer and Stronger" agenda emphasises the importance of building and supporting communities to be strong enough to resist disorder and anti-social acts from the outset.

#### **DEFINITIONS OF RELATIVE DEPRIVATION**

8. Professor Peter Townsend gave this definition in 1987: "people can be said to be deprived if they lack the types of diet, clothing, housing, household facilities and fuel, and environmental, educational, working and social conditions, activities and facilities which are customary...People are in poverty if they lack the resources to escape deprivation."
9. In an area such as Surrey which is populated by quite affluent households in the main, statutory services are often designed around the needs of the majority, for example the assumption may be made that most households have a car, and access to the internet. Where people live in areas of relative disadvantage compared to the county norm, services may need to be adapted to ensure that their needs are not overlooked.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SURREY HEATH IN CONTEXT

10. In 2006 Surrey Heath had the second smallest population of any Surrey borough, this was estimated as 82,400 by the Office for National Statistics, an increase of 2,100 since the census in 2001.
11. Surrey is the most urbanized shire county with 85% of its population living in urban areas, and is also the third most affluent county in England. In comparison with other local authority districts in England and Wales, the borough of Surrey Heath as a whole is not considered deprived. It is ranked within the least deprived 10% of local authority areas.
12. However it is important to look at data for much smaller areas and to make comparisons at local level in terms of relative need. The IMD 2007 enables this comparison, because data is provided for Super Output Areas (SOAs), which comprise a population of between 1000 and 3000 people. There are 32,482 SOAs in England & Wales, 709 of them in Surrey and 55 in Surrey Heath.
13. In the 2001 census Surrey Heath showed a higher than average level of employment, with only 1.6% of the population being unemployed, compared to the South East average of 2.3%. In 2007 the Office for National Statistics stated that Surrey Heath has the lowest economic inactivity rate of all areas in Great Britain at 7.4%. The ONS Annual Population Survey 2005-2006, showed that the percentage of the adult population without qualifications in Surrey was 7.7%, in Surrey Heath this was 10.2%
14. The *Strategic Needs Assessment: the health of the people of Surrey* (Surrey PCT, Autumn 2007) notes that life expectancy in Surrey Heath is relatively constant regardless of income deprivation, this was the only Borough in Surrey to reflect this. The Report also states that 4.8% of the county's population is aged over 80, whereas in Surrey Heath proportion is lowest in the County at 3.6%. The report projects that Surrey Heath will have a higher relative growth rate than the Surrey average, with the population expected to rise by 8.1% by 2016.
15. The report also notes that Surrey Heath has significantly lower death rates of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis than the England average. Surrey Heath also has lower obesity rates than the national average. The rate of mental health difficulties in the borough is lower than the Surrey average, notably in Frimley and West End, although rates were slightly higher in Watchetts. However, the overall rate for severe mental illness in Surrey Heath is one of the lowest in the County.

## SURREY HEATH DIFFERENCES AT SMALL AREA LEVEL

16. Three Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Surrey Heath appear within the top 50 most "deprived" small areas in Surrey based on overall IMD score:
  - Old Dean – North East (ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in Surrey)
  - St Michael's (33<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Old Dean – Central (46<sup>th</sup>)
17. Both Old Dean and St Michael's have relatively low education and skills attainment, together with a low income especially that affecting children, which largely explains their overall ranking within Surrey. The Surrey average for people aged 16-74 without any educational qualifications is 8.3%, whereas in Old Dean the proportion is 38% and in St Michael's 22%.
18. The IMD 2007 also showed that areas of Watchetts had scored low on income levels (18<sup>th</sup> in Surrey) and that areas of Deepcut had scored low on barriers to housing and services (12<sup>th</sup>). This may be due to the geographical position of

some areas of Deepcut. The IMD 2007 also showed that areas of Bagshot had scored low on crime and disorder (9<sup>th</sup>). The Joint Action Group (JAG), a multi-agency partnership who look at local areas of concern, are not aware of any current reasons why Bagshot would score so highly. It is assumed that this is a historical issue due to a slightly higher level of fire incidents and a spate of burglaries that occurred in the past.

### **MIGRATION TRENDS**

19. The Changing Face of Surrey (a snapshot of inward international migration in 2007) was prepared for Surrey County Council in September 2007, and summarised the available evidence on the number and origins of recent migrants to Surrey from abroad.
20. The report found that in Surrey 10,350 overseas nationals had registered for national insurance number in 2005/6, and 9,990 in 2006/7. The percentage growth in migrant numbers was roughly in line with that for the South East as a whole. About a third originated from the EU Accession states, and of those around half were Polish. Other recent arrivals were from South Africa, India, Australia, Phillipines, China and a range of other nations.
21. Surrey Heath had the fifth lowest number of overseas nationals (750) registering for a NI number in 2006/7 in Surrey.

### **SELF RELIANCE WORK IN SURREY HEATH**

22. There are two main areas of self-reliance work in Surrey Heath: Old Dean and St Michael's.

#### **Old Dean**

23. The work on the Old Dean is led and co-ordinated by the Old Dean Community Group (ODCoG). The group seeks to share information, lead projects, look for opportunities for joint working and oversee the Old Dean Advice Centre (ODAC). The group has recently been successful in securing funding from Accent-Peerless Housing Association for the rent of the ODAC until July 2011 as well as for provision of a part-time community development officer for this period. The group are currently seeking additional funding for running costs and activities and are hoping to gain charitable status within the next two months to assist with this.
24. The ODCoG AGM will be held at 7pm on 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Old Dean Advice Centre (ODAC) and all residents of the Old Dean are welcome to attend. In the past year the group have been building links with other local groups and provisions including the children's centre project and expanding services available at the ODAC. In November 2007 ODCoG ran a very successful networking event aimed at all providers in the area.
25. Current activities at the ODAC include parent and toddler sessions, music development for children, computing courses, healthy eating courses, kids holiday clubs, Police surgery plus open session for computer use or general advice. The centre also acts a local resource for agencies to meet with local people. In 2007 36 people gained a basic computing qualification from Surrey County Council's Adult and Community Learning, a further 14 gained an Open College Network certificate in computing.

#### **St Michael's**

26. The St Michael's Project Group (SMPG) has continued to develop over the past year and meets monthly to look at the area and consider support where needed. In the past year the group have funded youth intervention activities including

sports courses and a DVD project which have enabled the group of young males to almost complete their bronze DoE award.

27. The SMPG also coordinated a family funday aimed at increasing access to services and community spirit. This was attended by Surrey Police, the Borough Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Accent-Peerless Housing and Neighbourhood Watch. The youth group ran several activities including a BBQ, bike repair workshop for younger children and a football competition.
28. Summer activities for younger children were held in the community garden in the area. These were very well attended and used a local puppet workshop, Hubble, to help children with their communication skills and confidence. The activities were also themed around healthy eating.
29. In the coming year the SMPG will be looking at holding a wider meeting for stakeholders to look for opportunities for joint working and information sharing, supporting the youth group to gain it's Bronze DoE award and holding another funday in the area.

### **CONCLUSION**

30. This report has highlighted the latest evidence about trends and needs in the area. The information will be used to inform work with partners locally. Members may wish to consider the use of Members Allocations in supporting the work in identified areas