

Notice of Meeting

Children and Education Select Committee – SUPPLEMENTARY



SURREY

Date & time

Friday, 7 September
2018 at 10.00 am

Place

Ashcombe Suite,
County Hall, Kingston
upon Thames, Surrey
KT1 2DN

Contact

Richard Plummer
Room 122, County Hall
Tel 020 8213 2782

richard.plummer@surreycc.gov.uk

Chief Executive
Joanna Killian



We're on Twitter:
[@SCCdemocracy](https://twitter.com/SCCdemocracy)

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, eg large print or braille, or another language please either call 020 8541 9122, write to Democratic Services, Room 122, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN, Minicom 020 8541 8914, fax 020 8541 9009, or email richard.plummer@surreycc.gov.uk.

This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Richard Plummer on 020 8213 2782.

Elected Members

Mr Chris Botten (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Liz Bowes, Mr Robert Evans, Mr Tim Evans, Mrs Kay Hammond (Chairman), Mrs Julie Iles, Mrs Yvonna Lay, Mrs Lesley Steeds, Mr Chris Townsend and Mrs Victoria Young

Independent Representatives:

Mr Simon Parr (Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church), Mrs Tanya Quddus (Parent Governor Representative), Mr Alex Tear (Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church, Diocese of Guildford) and Mr Mike Wainhouse (Parent Governor's Association)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Children's Services (including safeguarding)
 - Early Help
 - Corporate Parenting
 - Education
- Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

AGENDA

8 OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

(Pages 3
- 8)

Purpose of report: To propose an Out of County Placements Task and Finish Group to the committee based on the terms of reference outlined and ask for Members to consider their interest in joining the group.

Terms of reference attached to this supplement.

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive

Published: 4 September 2018

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Thank you for your co-operation

CHILDREN’S PLACEMENTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The process for establishing a task and finish group is:

1. The Select Committee identifies a potential topic for a task and finish group
2. The Select Committee Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer complete the scoping template.
3. The Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee reviews the scoping document
4. The Select Committee agrees membership of the group.

Review Topic: Out of County Children’s Placements Task And Finish Group
Select Committee(s) Children and Education Select Committee
Relevant background <p>In December 2017, the Council agreed a motion unanimously stating “This Council agrees that there is a lack of County Council provided residential place and special needs places for children within Surrey and the County Council will invest in providing more of such places for children in Surrey as soon as practicable.”</p> <p>As of April 2018, preliminary statistics state that approximately 49% children who are looked after by the Council are living outside of Surrey borders. The need for stability in child placements, the need to be situated in a location closer to family and friends, and the need to not have to travel long distances to and from school are key components to improving the wellbeing of children and their families.¹</p> <p>To this end, it is proposed that a task and finish group is constituted to fulfil the aims set out in this document and to understand the reasoning for growth, determine options and feasibility for the reduction of Out of County placements, and analyse potential future demand in line with these proposals.</p>

¹ Children’s Commissioner Report, Stability Index April 2017
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Childrens-Commissioners-Stability-Index-2017-Overview-Document-1.3.pdf>

Why this is a scrutiny item

There are significant numbers of children who are looked after in social care placements with external providers within the borders of Surrey at a high cost to the Council.

There are also substantial numbers of children in SEND placements with external providers at a high cost, with a significant percentage of children being placed outside of Surrey.

The cost of Out of County placements for Surrey and the impact that they have on the outcomes for children in the care of the Council are of concern to the authority and to Members.

It is acknowledged there are myriad reasons why some looked after children live away from their home authority.² However, the quality of these placements and the linking with the home local authority has been noted to be a key determining factor in improving outcomes.³ Therefore, work must be undertaken to determine the reasoning for children being placed Out of County to ensure that these outcomes are as positive as they can be.

What questions are the group aiming to answer?

1. What are the causes for the growth in demand for placements?
 - a. Is there an increasing level of need? If so, where is this need being generated from?
 - b. Can need be alleviated through other methods rather than placements? (eg. Early Help)
2. What is the current provision for placements and assess how sustainable the current model, both financially and in terms of the child's experience.
3. Is there an ideal model to deliver to maximise the experience of the child going through this system?
4. Can Surrey County Council work to commission new affordable provision for children who would, under the current provision, be placed Out of County:
 - a. To determine what the service considers to be affordable provision and what is required to ensure good outcomes.
 - b. To what extent can affordable in county provision be commissioned and;
 - c. Will this serve to reduce Out of County placements in an affordable manner and;
 - d. Can the work of the redesigned Family Resilience services be used to alleviate pressure on county placements?

Aim

That the Task and Finish Group understands current levels of provision available for Children's placements, why they are currently provided as they are, to understand what options are available to deliver these differently and make recommendations based on this to the Cabinet Member.

² From a distance: Looked after children living away from their home area, Ofsted, April 2014

³ Ibid.

Objectives

- To review current provision and why it has been historically delivered that way
- To understand the causes of growth in placements
- To understand how to deliver on placing children in care to maximise the positive experience of the child.
- To review potential proposals based on key strategic outputs
- To reduce need and demand for placements through Family Resilience services
- To align future commissioning and financial planning to robust modelling of future demand
- To inform the Placements Sufficiency Strategy to be published March 2019.

Scope (within / out of)**In scope:**

- All placements of Children with SEND and/or Looked After Children out of county and commissioned services.
- Current provision in Surrey and planned and potential future development.
- Work currently in development to develop in County provision.
- Evidence of current in county good practice

Out of scope:

- SEND Transport
- OfSTED improvement actions.
- Individual cases

Outcomes for Surrey / Benefits

Options for the delivery of better placement outcomes, both in value for money and the experience of the child and potential long term savings for the Council.

Proposed work plan

Timescale	Task	Responsible
October 2018	Learning Exercise – Current provision offer and the current costs, as well as projected future costs of continuing to provide these services in the current way, and the profile of children that require these services in SEND and LD	
December 2018	Detail of the impact that going out of county has on child experience and scoping out for in county provision including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement stability • Placement quality in county • Placement quality out of county 	
February 2018	Market assessment of potential future provision, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for In-house provision and the costs of providing this • Potential for commissioned provision and the costs of providing this 	

March 2019	Provide insight and learning into the Sufficiency Strategy from impact on child experience and market assessment.	
June 2019	Report to Children and Education Select Committee	

Potential Witnesses

Frank Offer, Head of Market Strategy
Tina Benjamin, Interim Change Director
Belinda Newth, Head of Quality and Experience
Sam Morrison, Principal Commissioning Manager (SCW)
Gavin Spiller, Principal Commissioning Manager (SEND)
Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children
Family Voice
Service Users

Useful Documents

Surrey Placement Strategy for Looked After Children 2016 – 2019,
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/96209/Surrey-Placement-Strategy-for-Looked-After-Children-April-2016-FINAL.pdf

Children’s Commissioner Report, Stability Index April 2017,
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Childrens-Commissioners-Stability-Index-2017-Overview-Document-1.3.pdf>

SEND Commissioning Plan

Child First Commissioning Intentions

Potential barriers to success (Risks / Dependencies)

Member & Officer availability
Time to realise benefits of work
Potential for limited capacity to commission new services in County
Potential initial cost implications of any suggested work

Equalities implications

The services within the scope of this Task and Finish Group will provide support to residents with ‘protected characteristics’, as defined by The Equality Act 2010, many of which with complex levels of need and support.

The Task and Finish Group will also be looking at services for children with complex needs and will be mindful of the impact of any recommendation upon children in this category.

Task Group Members	Chris Botten Two additional Members of the Children and Education Select Committee
Co-opted Members	
Spokesman for the Group	Chris Botten
Scrutiny Officer/s	Richard Plummer

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