

## Notice of Meeting

# Children & Education Select Committee



**Date & time**  
Thursday, 19  
September 2013 at  
10.00 am

There will be a  
private pre-meeting  
for Members at  
9.30am

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

**Contact**  
Rachel Yexley / Damian  
Markland or Andrew Spragg  
Room 122, County Hall  
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2703

**Chief Executive**  
David McNulty

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**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 9068, 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 [rachel.yexley@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.yexley@surreycc.gov.uk) / [damian.markland@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:damian.markland@surreycc.gov.uk) or [andrew.spragg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.spragg@surreycc.gov.uk).**

**This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Rachel Yexley / Damian Markland or Andrew Spragg on 020 8541 9133 / 020 8213 2703.**

### **Elected Members**

Mrs Liz Bowes, Mr Ben Carasco, Mr Robert Evans, Mr Denis Fuller (Vice-Chairman), Mr Mike Goodman, Dr Zully Grant-Duff (Chairman), Mr Ken Gulati, Mr Colin Kemp, Mrs Stella Lallement, Mrs Mary Lewis, Mrs Marsha Moseley and Mr Chris Townsend

### **Co-opted Representatives:**

Cecile White (Parent Governor Representative), Duncan Hewson (Parent Governor Representative), Derek Holbird (Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church) and Mary Reynolds (Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church)

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

Children's Services (including Looked after children, Fostering, Adoption, Child Protection, Children with disabilities, and Transition)

Schools and Learning

Services for Young People (including Surrey Youth Support Service)

## AGENDA

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

### 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 31 JULY 2013

(Pages 1  
- 14)

To agree the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

#### Notes:

- In line with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, declarations may relate to the interest of the member, or the member's spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom the member is living as husband or wife, or a person with whom the member is living as if they were civil partners and the member is aware they have the interest.
- Members need only disclose interests not currently listed on the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting so they may be added to the Register.
- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

### 4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

To receive any questions or petitions.

#### Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00pm four working days before the meeting (13 September 2013).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (12 September 2013).
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

### 5 RESPONSES FROM THE CABINET TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Committee did not refer any items to the Cabinet at its last meeting, so there are no responses to report.

### 6 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

(Pages  
15 - 16)

**Purpose of the report:** This report provides Members with an introduction to substantial items on this agenda, which all relate to the theme of early help and prevention.

**7 EARLY HELP OFFER - REDUCING THE NEED FOR FAMILIES TO ACCESS HIGH SUPPORT SERVICES** (Pages 17 - 30)

**Purpose of the report:** Scrutiny of Services – Policy Development and Review

This report details how Surrey is working with partners to develop a Surrey-wide 'Early Help' strategy. It also provides examples of initiatives that are already in place to deliver the strategy, such as the Central Referral Unit (CRU).

**8 THE SURREY FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME AND TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SERVICES** (Pages 31 - 38)

**Purpose of the Report:** Policy Development and Review

This provides an update on the Surrey Family Support Programme, which is a key delivery mechanism for early help and prevention in the county.

**9 PUBLIC HEALTH, EARLY HELP AND THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES PROGRAMME** (Pages 39 - 44)

**Purpose of the Report:** Policy Development and Review

This report details how Public Health, responsibility for which has recently been transferred to the local authority, can contribute to and strengthen the early help offer in Surrey.

**10 RECOMMENDATION TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 45 - 54)

The Committee is asked to monitor progress on the implementation of recommendations from previous meetings, and to review its Forward Work Programme.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 28 November 2013 at 10am.

**David McNulty**  
**Chief Executive**

Published: Wednesday, 11 September 2013

## MOBILE TECHNOLOGY – ACCEPTABLE USE

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- Distract other people
- Interrupt presentations and debates
- Mean that you miss a key part of the discussion

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*Thank you for your co-operation*

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **CHILDREN & EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00 am on 31 July 2013 at Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 19 September 2013.

**Elected Members:**

- \* Mrs Liz Bowes
- \* Mr Ben Carasco
- \* Mr Robert Evans
- \* Mr Denis Fuller (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Mr Mike Goodman
- A Dr Zully Grant-Duff (Chairman)
- \* Mr Ken Gulati
- \* Mr Colin Kemp
- A Mrs Stella Lallement
- \* Mrs Mary Lewis
- \* Mrs Marsha Moseley
- A Mr Chris Townsend

**Ex officio Members:**

- \* Mrs Sally Ann B Marks, Vice Chairman of the County Council  
Mr David Munro, Chairman of the County Council

**Co-opted Members:**

- A Cecile White, Parent Governor Representative
- A Duncan Hewson, Parent Governor Representative
- A Derek Holbird, Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church
- A Mary Reynolds, Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church
- \* Marie Ryan, Substitute for Derek Holbird

**In attendance:**

- Claire Curran (Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Learning)
- Mary Angell (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

**1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Chris Townsend, Cecile White, Stella Lallement, Derek Holbird and Zully Grant-Duff. Marie Ryan acted as substitute for Derek Holbird.

The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, Linda Kemeny, also sent her apologies.

In Zully Grant-Duff's absence Denis Fuller, the Vice-Chairman, acted as Committee Chairman for this meeting.

**2/13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 20 MARCH 2013 (CHILDREN & FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE) & 28 MARCH 2013 (EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE) [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meetings.

**3/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4/13 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]**

**Declarations of interest:** None.

**Witnesses:**

PJ Wilkinson (Assistant Director for Schools and Learning)

Claire Curran (Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Learning)

Mary Angell (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Three Member questions had been received from Mr Robert Evans. The questions and responses were tabled, and are enclosed with these minutes.
2. The Chairman invited Robert Evans to ask supplementary questions. In response to Question 1 the Member requested further detail on what measures were being used to discourage Surrey schools from moving to academy status. Officers commented that the Local Authority had no power to direct schools in these matters, but did work to discourage and influence where possible. The Committee was informed that the Local Authority maintained healthy partnerships with Surrey academy schools. Officers expressed the view that there were no significant gains for Surrey schools to pursue academy status, other than in their ability to support other schools.
3. The Committee was told that free schools were being actively encouraged by the Local Authority where there was an identified local need.

4. In reference to Question 2, the Member requested further information on what was being done to reduce the number of schools appeals. Officers outlined that there had been significant work to identify Surrey's need and provision of school places, and that this information was published on an annual basis. It was highlighted that there had been a significant commitment of capital funding in the Medium Term Financial Plan towards creating an additional 12,000 school places in the next five years.
5. In reference to Question 3, the Member asked officers to confirm that the under-spend from 2013/13 was being directed towards the provision of additional school places. Officers commented that under-expenditure was not considered a "carry-forward" and had been result of preparing for anticipated cuts in the financial year, the impact of which had been managed. It was confirmed that the under-spend would be used to meet increasing budgetary pressures in 2013/14.

**Recommendations:**

None.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Committee Next Steps:**

None.

**5/13 RESPONSES FROM THE CABINET TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 5]**

There had been no referrals made to Cabinet so there were no responses to report.

**6/13 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTees TO THE CHILDREN & EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 6]**

**Declarations of interest:** None.

**Witnesses:** None.

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. The Committee agreed the appointment of the co-optees as outlined in the report.

**Resolved:**

- That the individuals detailed in paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of the report be formally co-opted onto the Children & Education Select Committee.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Committee Next Steps:**

None.

**7/13 INCREASING THE EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY  
[Item 7]**

**Declarations of interest:** None.

**Witnesses:**Session 1

Garath Symonds (Assistant Director for Young People)

Claire Curran (Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Learning)  
Mary Angell (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Session 2

Jenny Smith (Development Manager)  
Jayne Dickinson (Principle and Chief Executive of East Surrey College)  
Ron Searle (Headmaster at the Warwick School)  
Sue Taylor (Network Manager of Association of Learning Providers)  
Ben Gately (The Eleven)  
Amanda Sims (Education Contracts Manager at U-Explore)  
Pete Brayne (Director for Surrey Youth Consortium / Chief Executive of Guildford YMCA)  
Garath Symonds (Assistant Director for Young People)

Claire Curran (Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Learning)  
Mary Angell (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Session 3

Sean Rafferty (Head of Family Services)  
Ben Byrne (Head of Youth Support Services)  
James Beardall (Care Services Manager)  
Angela Sargeant (CAMHS Policy & Development Manager)  
Phil Doyle (Catch 22 Service Manager)  
Pete Brayne (Director for Surrey Youth Consortium / Chief Executive of Guildford YMCA)  
Garath Symonds (Assistant Director for Young People)

Claire Curran (Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Learning)



## Key points raised during the discussion:

### Session 1

1. The Committee queried the timescale in which officers intended to deliver their ambition of full participation of all young people in some form of education, employment, or employment and training. Officers commented that the target was to ensure full participation by 2015.
2. Officers commented that there were 936 young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) as of June 2013. The Committee was informed that Services for Young People was working to develop a way of delivering systemic change for all NEET young people, as it was felt that this was the manner in which long-term unemployment and other issues could be tackled.
3. The Chairman invited the two young people present (Ben Hodgeson and Oliver van Koetsveld) to ask their question. Officers were asked to comment on why careers advice was not mandatory in the year students were required to choose their GCSE options. Officers confirmed that all secondary schools had an obligation to deliver some form of careers advice, but that there was no requirement to do so in that specific year. The Committee was informed that there were 56 different agencies delivering careers advice in schools across Surrey. It was also highlighted that the Council provided its own careers advice to young people through the online resource U-explore.
4. The Committee was informed that the National Curriculum placed less emphasis on vocational pathways, but that there was work being undertaken through Surrey's Public Services Transformation programme to develop a clear approach to the provision of careers information and guidance for young people.
5. The Committee asked officers to clarify whether the expected increase in the number of young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) was attributable to population growth, as opposed to a percentage increase. It was confirmed by officers that this was the case. The Committee was informed that this presented a significant challenge in how the Council responded to the increase in need.
6. The Committee was informed that the proposed changes to SEN arrangements in the Children & Families Bill meant that additional funding for students with School Action and School Action Plus would no longer be available to schools. It was recognised by officers that this presented a significant challenge in terms of young people who were NEET, or at risk of becoming NEET, as a large majority were supported through School Action and School Action Plus arrangements. The Committee was informed that this was likely to present a barrier to participation, as schools would no longer have access to those additional resources.
7. The Committee asked officers to outline the mentor arrangements for those young people who were NEET. It was confirmed that they all had assessment workers that identified the most appropriate pathways for them to access.

8. The Cabinet Member for Children & Families informed the Committee of the opportunity to support Looked After Children (LAC) care leavers by becoming a sponsor, and that there was a need to identify more sponsors to ensure these young people had suitable mentors after leaving care.

## Session 2

1. Officers outlined how Services for Young People identified the aspirations of young people and the opportunities available to them, and how this informed the commissioning process. It was highlighted that the recent peer review had praised the service's approach to partnership working, as well as the ambition of its apprenticeship programme. The Committee was informed that there had been a 20% increase in apprenticeships between 2011/12 and 2012/13 with over 100 more young people undertaking apprenticeships.
2. The Committee asked officers to comment on how the service ensured that young people's aspirations matched the opportunities available to them. The Network Manager for the Association of Learning Providers (ALP) commented that Information and Guidance (IAG) in schools was crucial in aligning aspirations and opportunities. The Committee was informed that IAG was important but also had to be tailored to meet the need of the young person, particularly with those at risk of being NEET. It was observed that often this meant a lot of additional resource and spending time to build a relationship with the young person in question.
3. The founder of The Eleven commented that there was a mis-match between the aspirations of young people and the jobs available. The Committee was informed that part of the way in which this could be addressed would be in how careers were being presented to young people.
4. The Headteacher of the Warwick School outlined the IAG arrangements available within his school, and commented that there was close partnership working with other local schools and colleges. Many of the witnesses present commented that partnership working was crucial in supporting young people into employment or further education. The Committee was informed that this had been achieved in part through the use of clear vision statements and compacts between services. Organisations such as the Prince's Trust were identified as being of particular value in supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET.
5. The Committee asked witnesses to comment on how they engaged employers in the process of providing IAG and developing opportunities. The Network Manager of the ALP informed the Committee that they worked closely with Surrey business networks as well as the Chamber of Commerce. It was noted that employers would be attending the 2013 ALPs Opportunities fair. Officers also commented that the Council's procurement relationship with providers was designed to ensure that they were actively supporting young people into employment.

6. The Committee had a discussion about the occasional need to address and challenge family expectations in relation to young people's aspirations. It was acknowledged that there was a need to address families in a holistic fashion when supporting young people into education, employment, or employment and training.
7. A number of witnesses commented on a cultural shift away from young people wanting to pursue traditional academic routes towards developing more vocational skills. The popularity of apprenticeship programmes with both young people and employers was highlighted to support this view. However, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families also commented that it was important to challenge young people to achieve and excel to the best of their ability, and that higher education should still be a consideration.
8. Officers praised the Warwick School for its inclusive approach to education, and the ability to offer a number of different pathways to its students. It was also expressed that this was not indicative of Surrey schools in general, and that there would be a challenge to schools to take a more inclusive approach. The Headteacher of the Warwick School informed the Committee that there was an increasing pressure at a national level to move away from vocational skills and towards a more academic curriculum. It was raised that the hope was that the local authority would support the school in its approach, despite the national trend.
9. A number of witnesses commented to the Committee that the local authority should consider the future trajectory and trends that were emerging in relation to young people in education and employment. Officers commented that there had been a clear rise in the number of young people in employment in Surrey, while the number in education had decreased, and that the service would continue to consider how best to align itself to young people's aspirations.

### Session 3

1. The Committee was informed that Services for Young People used a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to helping support young people at risk of becoming NEET. Officers commented that it was the case that there were 1,000 NEET young people at any one time, but that the service engaged with approximately 2,000 over the course of an academic year. This variation in the numbers was a result of young people becoming enrolled or employed through the course of the year.
2. Officers explained that Services for Young People was set up to respond to areas of identified need, with specific criteria, rather than being aimed at purely preventative work. The Committee was informed that many young people at risk of becoming NEET were identified through a Risk Of NEET Indicator (RONI) and that this had proven an effective way of ensuring preventative work was being undertaken at the appropriate time.
3. The Committee asked whether having a wide number of professionals involved with an individual young person could prevent a joined-up

approach to the support offered. Officers commented that often families would have a number of professionals to meet a number of complex needs. It was highlighted that the intention of the Family Support Programme was ensuring that these different agencies provided support in a positive and linked way.

4. The Committee held a discussion about how to embed a more preventative approach within schools, so that young people were confident in what services they could access to support them. It was outlined that the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) delivered a number of training courses to schools about providing support to young people. The Committee was also informed that there were a number of peer mentors and CAMHS youth advisors that were aimed at providing peer-to-peer support for young people.
5. Officers commented that Services for Young People had recently developed an online youth portal that would help signpost support services and resources for young people. It was acknowledged by officers that the implementation of this youth portal had not been as effective as originally hoped, and that efforts were underway to improve young people's engagement with the resource.
6. The Committee raised the recommendations of the Peer Review and asked officers to comment on the identified need to improve local co-ordination of services. Officers stated the complex local arrangements reflected budgetary reductions in recent years, as well the requirement to adapt services to meet the Local Prevention Framework (LPF). The Committee was informed that it was felt that there was a challenge to local Youth Support Services managers to lead local services and the implementation of policy. The Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools & Families commented that Members had a responsibility as individual local councillors to scrutinise what the local offer was in their District & Boroughs, and that this could be achieved in part through Local Committees.
7. The Committee discussed the Peer Review Action Plan, and requested that officers clarify whether it was in the process of being developed. In addition Members asked that consideration be given to how the Committee could be involved in its preparation and implementation.
8. The Director for Surrey Youth Consortium highlighted the issue of homelessness in relation to young people who were NEET, and expressed the view that this was area where significant impacts could be made with the appropriate support.
9. The Chairman thanked the young people in attendance for their contribution to the meeting.

**Recommendations:**

- a) That the Committee look to further explore the provision of careers advice and information and guidance in Surrey, with a particular focus on consistency.

Action by: Chairman/Democratic Services

- b) That Members of the Council be encouraged to become a care leaver sponsor.

Action by: Chairman/Democratic Services

- c) That Cabinet consider how students who are unlikely to be eligible for a combined plan will be supported following the introduction of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) and the cessation of School Action and School Action Plus, so as not to jeopardise their chances of post-16 participation.

Action by: Cabinet

- d) That the direction of travel detailed in the Employability Plan is supported, and officers and partners congratulated on the work so far, whilst acknowledging the challenges and financial pressures ahead.

Action by: Cabinet

- e) That the Assistant Director for Young People clarify whether the peer review action plan meeting will take place on 4 October 2013 and that the Committee be informed of the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the review.

Action by: Assistant Director for Young People

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Committee Next Steps:**

None.

**8/13 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME [Item 8]**

**Declarations of interest:** None.

**Witnesses:** None.

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Members requested that January 2014's theme be amended to include the following question: "How does the curriculum provided improve outcomes for young people with Special Education Needs?"

2. There was a brief discussion regarding the format of the meeting and reports. Officers from Democratic Services noted the feedback and agreed to take the suggestions forward.

**Recommendations:**

None.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Committee Next Steps:**

The Committee will continue to review its Forward Work Programme at each meeting.

**9/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 9]**

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Children & Education Select Committee would be on 19 September 2013 at 10am. Members were reminded that there would be a private pre-meeting beginning at 9.30am.

Meeting ended at: 1.12 pm

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**Chairman**

**Questions to Children & Education Select Committee – 31 July 2013**

1. In view of the fact that if existing Surrey schools opt to become Academies, or if new 'Free Schools' are established, this has a negative impact on finances and complicates Surrey's role in providing sufficient school places, what measures is the County taking to counter such moves?
2. How many Surrey parents have appealed against the school places allocated for their child next year? What measures are the County considering to reduce pressures and the consequent numbers of appeals in future?
3. At the committee's last meeting in March 2013, members expressed concern at two areas of major underspend in the budget, namely £3.5 million on the DSG (dedicated schools grant) and £2.4 million on early years. What measures have been taken in the last quarter to ensure that these education funds are actually spent on children and education - not keep in reserves?

Robert Evans (Stanwell and Stanwell Moor)

**Response**

1. The council's funding is reduced from two different sources as schools convert to academy status:
  - a. Surrey County Council (SCC) receives an annual grant from central government to provide support services to schools - the Education Services Grant (ESG). When a school converts to an academy, this grant is reduced by £116 per pupil. Hence should a school with 1000 pupils convert, then the authority loses £116,000 in ESG and the funding is transferred to the academy. ESG is reduced during the year as further schools convert to academies.
  - b. Schools are funded by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). There are also some support services funded by DSG which the Local Authority (LA) may provide centrally for maintained schools (if the Schools Forum agrees) but for which funding must be delegated to academies. Such services include behaviour support and specific licenses. In 2013/14 Surrey retained £2.8m from DSG to provide these services on behalf of maintained schools and the 31 academies in existence at 31 March 2013 received £268,000 for these services. The position will change during the year as more schools convert to academies.

Surrey has 33 existing academies and 20 in the process of conversion before the end of 2013. The council and Babcock 4S can trade with academies and have a brochure of services. Most academies purchase some services. However, there is often a mismatch between funding and need. For example, 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools are unlikely to have been eligible for school improvement funding from the council, as this is targeted to schools based on need. Despite this, they will receive a share of the council's school improvement budget on conversion (via ESG), but are unlikely to purchase this service. If a good or outstanding school opts to transfer to academy status the Local Authority (LA) is not able to prevent this where the Secretary of State (SoS) has approved an Academy Order

In the case of a school that is in an Ofsted category of concern, the SoS can intervene and issue an order for the school to be a sponsored academy as a measure to improve performance. Surrey County Council has been working with the larger successful academies for them to carry the function of sponsoring academy in order to keep an in house solution to school improvement.

Where the council is aware of prospective free school promoters, it is communicating with them to try and manage the provision of school places efficiently. The council may make representations -- as necessary - - to the DfE, if it does not consider there to be a basic need requirement where a free school is proposed to be located.

SCC continues to manage the positive relationships with schools that have already converted to academy status and factor them in to the overall management of school places. If the LA does need to increase the capacity at an academy, it will fall to SCC to provide funding for these additional places via the basic need programme identified in the 5-year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

2. Please note that these statistics are in the process of being validated. The council's Schools Appeals Services is set up to organise appeals for all community and voluntary controlled schools across Surrey. They also provide this service to a number of own admission authority schools (trust, foundation, voluntary aided and academies) throughout Surrey. However, a number of these schools organise their own appeals

September 2013 entry

	Lodged	Heard
Community & VC	403	243
Own AA schools	283	184



The appeal figures for schools that are their own admission authorities and organise their appeals (based on figures received to date) are as follows:

	Lodged	Heard
Own AA schools	87	66
<b>Total:</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>493</b>

The Directorate is enabling expansion at a large number of Surrey schools to increase the places available, and therefore hope to improve the percentages of parents receiving their choice of school. When increasing provision at schools we always have regard to school popularity and standards, and, where possible, expand schools that are both popular and highly rated by Ofsted. This is evidenced by our recent success in securing additional basic need funding.

It should also be noted that Surrey is experiencing a significant increase in the primary age population, this has reduced the number of vacant spaces available and as a consequence the ability to have choices between school places has reduced. An increase in appeal rates would be anticipated as a result. It is imperative, therefore, that the provision of additional school places continues to be a priority.

- Both the DSG and Early Years underspends include provisions we are required to make for 2 and 3 year olds to claim free entitlement to nursery education during the year. This is a growing initiative as the DfE is gradually increasing the percentage of 2 year olds gaining entitlement. This is the point at which children enter the education system and therefore numbers cannot be accurately projected. Also, take-up is dependent on parental choice and is not compulsory. Take-up is monitored and in January 2013, the likely underspend to be carried forward from 2012/13 was built into the 2013/14 budget. This freed up DSG Funding for Early Years in 2013/14 which could be transferred to support SEN pupils. The other main cause of underspending was from temporary vacancies resulting from the restructure of Schools & Learning services, which are not expected to recur.

**Dr Zully Grant-Duff**  
**Chairman – Children & Education Select Committee**

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Children and Education Select Committee  
19 September 2013

**Chairman's Introduction**

**Purpose of the report:** This report provides Members with an introduction to substantial items on this agenda, which all relate to the theme of early help and prevention.

**Introduction: Why is the Select Committee scrutinising early help and prevention?**

1. In recent years, a number of Government initiatives and major policy reviews have called on councils (and other key agencies) to improve their early help and prevention offer. It is hoped that supporting children and families early on will prevent problems from reaching crisis point, and reduce the need for high-cost acute and specialist services.
2. After an unannounced inspection of child protection arrangements in September 2012, Ofsted recommended that the Council and its partner agencies "should establish a clear, joint commitment to the implementation of an integrated early help offer in order to ensure seamless support arrangements for those children not yet, or no longer, at risk of significant harm."<sup>1</sup> It is therefore timely for the Committee to review progress in this priority area twelve months on.

**Meeting Structure**

3. The Committee has been provided with three reports which all relate to the early help and prevention 'agenda'.
  - The first report (item 7) details how Surrey is working with partners to develop a Surrey-wide 'Early Help' strategy. It also provides examples of initiatives that are already in place to deliver the strategy, such as the Central Referral Unit (CRU). This report will be introduced by Caroline Budden, Deputy Director for Children, Schools and Families at Surrey County Council.

<sup>1</sup> ['Inspection of Local Authority Arrangements for the Protection of Children: Surrey County Council' Ofsted, October 2012](#)

- The second report (item 8) provides an update on the Surrey Family Support Programme, which is a key delivery mechanism for early help and prevention in the county. This report will be introduced by Sean Rafferty, Head of Family Services at Surrey County Council.
- The third report (item 9) details how Public Health, responsibility for which has recently been transferred to the local authority, can contribute to and strengthen the early help offer in Surrey. This report will be introduced by Helen Atkinson, Acting Director of Public Health at Surrey County Council.

#### **Additional Witnesses**

4. As well as the officers listed above, a small number of additional witnesses have been invited to assist the Select Committee in its scrutiny of this area. Members will be provided with details of the witnesses prior to the Committee meeting.

#### **Further Information**

5. If you require further information regarding the meeting please contact the scrutiny team using the contact details below.

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#### **Report contacts:**

Rachel Yexley, Scrutiny Manager, Surrey County Council  
Damian Markland, Scrutiny Officer, Surrey County Council

**Contact details:** 020 8541 9133 / 020 8213 2703

#### **Sources/background papers:**

['Inspection of Local Authority Arrangements for the Protection of Children: Surrey County Council' Ofsted, October 2012](#)



Children and Education Select Committee  
19 September 2013

**Early Help offer, reducing the need for families to access high support services**

**Purpose of the report:** Scrutiny of policy development and a review of Early Help and Prevention for families, children and young people. The report demonstrates to the select committee the approach and direction of travel taken with partners across the county to enable the development of early help whole system and offers.

**What is early help and why is it needed?**

1. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years<sup>i</sup>.
2. The evidence and case for early help is made across major reviews on child protection (Munro<sup>ii</sup>), health inequalities (Marmot<sup>iii</sup>), poverty and life chances (Field<sup>iv</sup>) and education (Tickell<sup>v</sup>). Both reports by Graham Allen<sup>vi</sup> strongly suggest that by using evidence based approaches to early help, children and young people will achieve better outcomes at less cost. National organisations such as C4EO, the Wave Trust and Innovation Unit have been researching and testing early help approaches and have evidence of considerable impact on child outcomes<sup>vii</sup>. Overall the evidence suggests that early help is needed throughout all phases of the life course as difficulties emerge for families.
3. The Children and Young People's partnership<sup>1</sup> is committed to working together to provide a coherent and effective Early Help offer for children, young people and their families in order to improve positive outcomes and reduce the demand for services. If delivered appropriately we can:

<sup>1</sup> The Children and Young People's Partnership is Surrey's over arching partnership arrangement for children and young people which brings together the key organisations involved in commissioning and delivering children's services in Surrey. Its purpose is to co-ordinate working with all children, young people and families in Surrey with a particular focus on those most vulnerable.

- a) Support children and families before their problems escalate and reach crisis
  - b) Build on the positive elements of families lives
  - c) Build good relationships between families and services (through the voluntary rather than statutory nature of early help services)
  - d) Enhance individual and family resilience at a time when it is easier for them to do so
  - e) Minimise adverse periods and maximise life chances.
4. A desire to support and help families as difficulties emerge has been a shared aspiration of all key partnerships and communities across Surrey for a long time. As policy and language changes we have seen a shift from prevention as the most common terminology to be replaced, following the Munro reviews into child protection and safeguarding, by a descriptor of 'early help', This has been ratified in Working Together 2013; multi-agency statutory safeguarding guidance<sup>viii</sup>.
  5. National evidence, also demonstrates the critical role of early help services in:
    - Achieving positive outcomes for children, young people and families
    - Reducing costs associated with acute and specialist services.

#### What does effective early help look like?

6. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Effective early helps relies upon local agencies working together to:
  - Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
  - Undertake an assessment of the need for early help;
  - Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. ( Working Together 2013, pg10)
7. More recently there has been recognition that effective safeguarding and well-being systems are those that remain child centred and are inclusively family focussed<sup>ix</sup>. It is significant the move from the carers descriptor as 'parent' to that of 'family' - a construct that has varied meaning. Many of Surreys children and young people in need of support and / or protection are vulnerable or at risk of harm due to their experiences of being cared for. Often families are struggling and vulnerable, with a multiplicity of personal and domestic challenges. To improve the life experience and opportunities of children and young people, interventions often need to be directed towards the adults. Family pressures can be as overt as parental drug and alcohol dependency, mental health difficulties, instances of domestic abuse or more environmental in terms of poor employment opportunities and housing difficulties. What is recognised is that in most cases children and young people will experience better care giving from adults who are not

'distracted' by a multiplicity of problems that reduce their ability to cope and capacity to 'parent'.

## Early Help Thinking

8. Early help is part of a wider safeguarding and well being system, providing support and intervention to families who are experiencing difficulties and temporarily struggling. It has a wide reach and is not just about helping the select few. Based on relationships, it supports and promotes independence and resilience. A system of support in its own right, early help forms an integral part of the step down and avoid step up approach.
9. Ofsted highlighted that effective and prompt responses by the County Council and Police offered protection to children at risk of harm. However, their findings indicated that more work is needed to strengthen partnership working and early help. Key actions to improve the quality of help and protection given to children and young people include:
  - a) Establishment of a joint commitment from the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board<sup>2</sup>, Children and Young People's Partnership and core partner agencies, to implement an integrated early help offer to ensure seamless support arrangements for those children not yet, or no longer, at risk of significant harm
  - b) Review of the use of the common assessment framework (CAF)<sup>3</sup> for any purposes other than the assessment, planning and delivery of a multi-agency early help offer.
10. Surrey's Early Help Partnership Reference Group<sup>4</sup> has agreed an overarching strategy for early help which recognises that children and young people will move between different levels of need as their needs and circumstances change. As such, Surrey's early help offer should encompass each of the following levels of provision:
  - a) Universal services provided locally in the community for children and young people who are achieving expected outcomes. These services address the entire population of children and young people and aim to

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<sup>2</sup> The Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) is an inter-agency forum which brings together the Local Authority, police, health workers and all others in the community responsible for child protection to help them work more effectively to safeguard children from abuse and neglect.

<sup>3</sup> A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a holistic assessment that looks at the strengths and needs of children, parents and the wider environment. It is a consent based form which gathers information with an agreed action plan to help ensure the family get the right sort of help. The aim is to identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child's or young person's additional needs which are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs.

<sup>4</sup> The partnership reference group was set up in October 2012 to provide steer, guidance and expertise to the early help agenda in Surrey. It is chaired by the Assistant Director for Childrens and Safeguarding, and is made up of a mixture of strategic and operational experts in the area of early help across partner agencies.

reduce later incidences or problems. For example: universal services of health and education.

- b) Early Help services and timely intervention for children and young people at risk of, or who are diverting from expected outcomes.
- c) Specialist support and therapy involving a response when the problem has become serious, e.g. Child Protection.

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- 11. While Surrey has a good universal and specialist offer at either ends of the spectrum, there is recognition of, and an appetite for amongst partners, improving and strengthening the offer of services for children in need of early help and timely intervention to prevent problems becoming entrenched and more complex.
- 12. An underpinning principle of the strategy is that services are provided locally in the community creating greater opportunity for collective social responsibility by partners and the community within the system. This in turn will help to generate the environment for community budgets and social investment from all partners / organisations in the community as well scope to develop both philanthropy and private investment.

#### **What has been achieved so far?**

- 13. Surrey's Early Help project was established as a partnership-owned project in October 2012, as part of Surrey County Council's Public Value Programme. This built on the work that had been undertaken in 2010-12 to implement the Common Assessment Framework as part of the then Preventative Approach 2011 and Interim Early Help Strategy 2011/12. The objectives of the project are to develop and implement a co-ordinated early help offer across services and agencies working with children and young people, to improve outcomes and reduce the need for formal referral to children's social care.
- 14. An Early Help Partnership Reference Group was setup to provide steer, guidance and expertise to the Early Help Project. To act as a sounding board and a creative forum for the testing of options. It is chaired by the Project Sponsor, the Deputy Director of the Children, Schools and Families Directorate, and is made up of a mixture of strategic and operational experts in the area of early help across partner agencies.
- 15. The partnership group held a successful two day event in June to consolidate developments to date around the Early Help Strategy and operational tools and processes. Professionals from across partner agencies in Surrey came together to agree a partnership early help strategy, endorse new thresholds for accessing services and sign-off proposals for an 'early help assessment', building on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).
- 16. There is a commitment from the partnership to achieving the following vision:



‘Everyone works together to offer early help and timely intervention to support the resilience and well-being of children young people, families and communities promoting well-being and positive life opportunities.’

17. Partner agencies have co-designed and agreed to:

- Commission early help and timely intervention services to achieve agreed outcomes and priorities – e.g. To provide family support for families with multiple problems
- To strengthen communities by developing the market of local preventative services that can provide / support early help
- Support the philosophy and approach of an Early Help system that ensures through good communication, networks and referral /care pathways families experience a coherent ‘step up’ and ‘step down’ process as levels of need and /or complexity change.

### **Outcomes generated collectively for Early Help**

18. At each stage of their lives all partners want children, young people and families to achieve the following outcomes:

- Families are resilient and feel supported to tackle issues and problems as soon as they arise
- Families receive a minimum intervention as early as possible to prevent escalation of problems
- Children and young people make good relationships
- Children and young people are happy, healthy and well
- Children and young people maximise life opportunities.

19. A more extensive outcomes table can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Overarching partnership outcomes**

20. The partners have recognised overarching outcomes to benefit all parties/agencies and deliver the collective outcomes for families, children and young people, these are:

- Children and young people have better life opportunities, are safe, healthier and happier
- Crime reduction
- Reduction in A &E attendance
- Improved health and well-being
- Children more available to learn, better attendance
- Reduction in need for children and young people to become subject of a CP and LAC
- Expectation management of families living with disability- personalised budgets
- Less dependency on state
- Adults ‘more available’ for learning and work

## Partnership working

21. Partners will work together as a single system to drive improvement in the provision of early help services for children, young people and their families. In order to achieve our vision the following priority areas will need to be addressed:
- a) Provide well co-ordinated multi-agency early help services that are accessible, of good quality and of best value to meet the needs of the local population
  - b) Ensure that early help services are effective in identifying and improving outcomes for children and young people and particularly for groups of young people at risk of poorer outcomes e.g. children with disabilities
  - c) Improve communication, information sharing and recording across partner agencies who deliver early help and preventative services so families know what services are available and how to access them
  - d) Work with children and families as equal partners to develop the provision of early help and preventative services
  - e) Build capacity in communities and the voluntary sector to deliver early help
  - f) Prevent and protect young people from suffering the long-term effects of neglect.
22. There have been 4/5 partnership key focus areas of activity identified, these are:
- Good start in life- preschool health, learning and care giving to combat the negative impact of neglect
  - Reducing impact of domestic abuse- focus on causal factors; alcohol misuse; drug abuse; and mental health problems
  - Challenging and vulnerable adolescents
  - Vulnerable and disadvantaged children
  - Living with disability.
23. Appendix 1 illustrates this approach. It shows that children and young people will move between different levels of need as their own needs and circumstances change. A flexible pathway is therefore required to respond to these changing needs of children and young people and their families.
24. In the last year there has been a renewed focus on partnership working across the County. Different localities and/ or different agencies have focussed on targeted priorities and trialling new ways of working (e.g. Surrey Family Support programme, public health campaigns) while partnership governance groups have been establishing an overarching strategic approach to the development of an umbrella Surrey wide Early Help strategy.
25. There has been a continued emphasis across key partners in Surrey to deliver early help services to improve outcomes for children and young people and to reduce their need for intensive, acute or specialist support not least because of:

- Resilient families are more able to support good life chances for children
- Rising demand for specialist services for children and young people
- Improved national evidence of the role of early help in achieving positive outcomes
- Budget restraints
- Recognition of the importance of early help by all agencies
- It makes sense.

### Initial Implementation

26. In Children's Services there is already work underway to improve the interface and process between partner organisations, social workers and managers from Children's Service. The service has now joined up with the Surrey Police Central Referral Unit (CRU)<sup>5</sup> based in Guildford Police Station. This new way of working began on 1st July 2013. This shared ambition to manage the safeguarding 'front door' differently is the first steps towards a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that can provide the gateway to a future comprehensive Surrey wide early help and safeguarding system. The LA and police have now committed to explore the requirements necessary to expand the CRU into a MASH; including wider partner conversations. The benefits of the CRU are expected to be: a partnership approach and sharing of responsibility between agencies; joint decision making; greater information sharing; and better consistency in the application of thresholds and in turn better safeguarding outcomes for children and families in Surrey.
27. Surrey Police referrals account for a significant number of all the referrals to Children's Services. The aim is to improve the county's joint safeguarding response to child protection and child in need referrals and develop a shared responsibility across partner agencies for managing and sharing risk. This will include gaining partnership sign up to new ways of working collaboratively. The first phase of work is in the early stages of development with children's social care staff co-located with the police; new processes and procedures are still being tested with the police to manage 'child coming to Police notice' notifications. This work feeds into the Public Value Programme and is in line with the directorate's vision, strategy and the 4P's - prevention, protection, participation and potential.
28. An Early Help operating model incorporates intervention providers as part of a whole Early Help System. Referral pathways navigate the Early Help and Safeguarding systems, adopting the 'step up and step down' principle. Early help is something that can be delivered through a multiplicity of formal and informal 'providers' and 'vehicles of provision' e.g. schools, family support programmes, children centres, health visitors, church and faith groups, youth centres, GP surgeries, local community groups, family networks.

<sup>5</sup> Surrey police have a central referral process for all children and adult safeguarding and domestic violence referrals. The Central Referral Unit (CRU) will receive and grade all referrals to ensure that the right level and consistency of response is given to agencies.

29. Provision should be locally based and sourced, supported by statutory services. The model should adopt a team around the family approach with an identified lead professional. To succeed, an understanding of good information sharing is imperative as well as collaborative working throughout the system e.g. public health have a crucial role to play in terms of the JSNA<sup>6</sup> and commissioning resources; CCG's have a key commissioning role and the Surrey Family Support programme is an important delivery vehicle along with other local and community offers.

### **Conclusions:**

30. The key points of the report for select committee to consider and review are:
- a) Early help needs to be considered as a whole system and brings together a number of operating vehicles and offers for families, children and young people
  - b) The system will not be effective without fostering the environment for relationships to develop and the recognition by all agencies of the collective responsibility to delivering the needs of the families, children and young people in Surrey.

### **Recommendations:**

31. There are two recommendations for Committee to consider:
- a) That the Early Help approach and direction of travel are endorsed by the Committee, and the Council and key partners are encouraged to develop a whole system and offers within the system, including shared resource and budgets.
  - b) That the Committee review the development of the strategy, model of delivery components and offers being generated in partnership at a future date.

### **Next steps: Operating model generation**

32. The next steps are to:
- a) Work with families as equal partners to produce a child, young person and family friendly version of the Early Help Strategy. (August 2013 – September 2013)

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<sup>6</sup> The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies and describes the health, care and wellbeing needs of the whole population in Surrey. It is used by Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Board to set priorities and plan services to meet those needs. The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board was established as part of the Government's recent changes to the NHS. It became a statutory committee of Surrey County Council on 1 April 2013. The Board is the place for the NHS, public health, social care, local councillors, district and borough representatives and user representatives to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Surrey.

- b) Develop an early help commissioning strategy and action plan (September 2013 – March 2014)
- c) Development of a partnership training and induction programme (September 2013 – March 2014)
- d) Training workshops to be rolled out to focus on use of the single Early Help Assessment, and development of lead professional role (October 2013 – March 2014)
- e) Develop an Early Help implementation plan to ensure partners work together to deliver the Early Help strategy across Surrey (January 2014 – March 2014)
- f) Implementation of early help system in line with Public Value Programme options for the CSF Directorate (April 2014 – March 2015)

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**Sources/background papers:**

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Marmot, M. (2010) *Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010*. Published by The Marmot Review

Munro, E. Professor (2011) *Munro review of child protection: final report - a child-centred system*. The Stationery Office.

Tickell, C. (2012) *The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning. An Independent Report on the Early Years Foundation Stage to Her Majesty's Government*.

**END NOTES**

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<sup>i</sup> Department for Education (2013)

<sup>ii</sup> Professor Munro, E. (2011)

<sup>iii</sup> Marmot, M. (2010)

<sup>iv</sup> Field, F. Chances (2010)

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<sup>v</sup> Allen, G. (2011)

<sup>vi</sup> Tickell, C. (2012)

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/earlyintervention/>, <http://www.wavetrust.org/>,  
<http://www.innovationunit.org/>

<sup>viii</sup> Department for Education (2013)

<sup>ix</sup> Allen, G. (2011)

## Appendix 1: The Lifecourse Outcomes

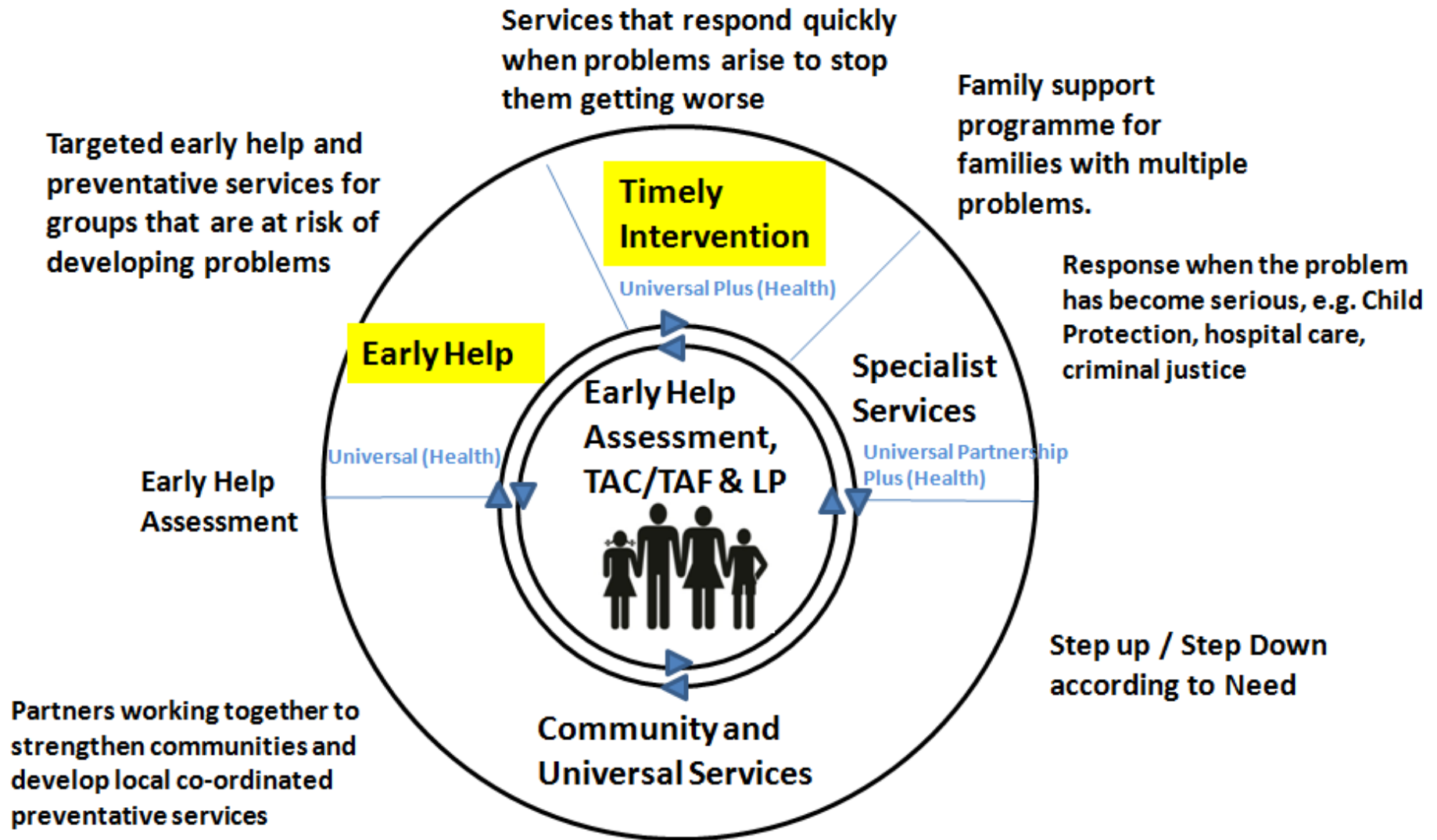
This table sets out a summary of all the key outcomes at each of the key stages of the outline aspirational outcomes for children and young people.

Pregnancy and birth	The early years	The primary years	The secondary years	Young adulthood
be happy and positive	be happy and positive	be happy and positive, enjoying their education and community	be happy and positive, enjoying their education and community	be happy and positive in their outlook
have access to sufficient material resources	have access to sufficient material resources	have access to sufficient material resources	have access to sufficient material resources	have access to sufficient material resources
have a positive network of families, friends and communities for support	have positive and supportive relationships within the family unit	have positive, supportive relationships within the family unit, friends and with authority figures	have positive relationships and support networks with their family, friends and community	have secure, positive relationships with family, friends, and communities that support their independence
have positive affectionate bonds with their babies	able to make friends, play with others and share	able to interact in a positive way within a team	able to interact positively in team of their peers	able to interact positively in team of peers or colleagues
Page 27 have good maternal physical and mental health	have a basic understanding of authority, positive social behaviours and boundaries	have emotional sensitivity and tolerance towards the people and things around them	able to use emotional sensitivity and tolerance to display respect and responsibility towards others, themselves, and their community	have developed social responsibility, emotional sensitivity and tolerance to enable them to participate positively in opportunities
be confident in making well-informed family planning decisions	able to communicate positively and deal with frustration	be confident in themselves, engaged and able to deal with setbacks	have a positive self-image through understanding and accepting their personal strengths and weaknesses	have a positive self-image through understanding and accepting their personal strengths and weaknesses
be well informed about the benefits of breastfeeding	maintain a healthy weight through active play and healthy eating habits	maintain a healthy weight through physical activity and healthy eating habits, with a basic understanding of why this is important	continue to be physically active and maintain good healthy eating habits, in school and in their communities	make an independent decision to continue to be physically active and eat healthily as a routine part of their lives
make positive choices for the health of the unborn child, for example not smoking	receive all scheduled immunisations	receive all scheduled immunisations	receive all scheduled immunisations	continue to develop financial and money management skills
have a child-friendly, safe and secure home environment	explore, practice and extend	have good basic numeracy and literacy levels, including appropriate reading ability		continue in education, or

<p>have access to a network of professional support and services that are relevant to their needs</p> <p>have a safe labour and birth</p> <p>have babies with a healthy birth weight</p>	<p>numeracy and literacy skills</p> <p>achieve well at the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile</p> <p>be inquisitive and open to trying new things</p> <p>able to solve simple problems and consider a set of low risk decisions, with support</p> <p>live in a child-friendly, safe, secure and stimulating home environment, that supports their development</p> <p>have access to services and support that are relevant to their needs</p> <p>able to access stimulating and enjoyable leisure and cultural opportunities</p> <p>be ready for primary school</p>	<p>and basic arithmetic</p> <p>achieve well at key stage 1 to provide a good foundation for excellent key stage 2 attainment</p> <p>be inquisitive and imaginative as a complement to their academic achievement</p> <p>extend problem solving skills and take reasoned decisions about their safety, with support</p> <p>have ambition, aspirations and drive for the future</p> <p>live in a safe, secure and stable home environment, that supports their learning and development</p> <p>have access to services and support that are relevant to their needs</p> <p>able to access stimulating and enjoyable leisure and cultural opportunities</p> <p>be ready for secondary school</p>	<p>know how to handle money, budget and prioritise for necessities</p> <p>participate in education, employment and/or training that leads to the achievement of a level 3 qualification</p> <p>understand how their personal interests, strengths and learning choices relate to the world of work</p> <p>able make well informed positive life choices that promote their own safety</p> <p>have the ambition and drive to challenge themselves to succeed</p> <p>live in a safe, secure and stable home environment, that supports their development</p> <p>able to identify and access services and support that are relevant to their needs</p> <p>able to access stimulating and enjoyable leisure and cultural opportunities</p> <p>be well prepared for the transition to further or higher education, training or employment</p>	<p>secure employment or training</p> <p>have a broad set of skills that employers value</p> <p>continue to cultivate positive behaviours, make positive life choices and take considered risks</p> <p>engaged with opportunities for positive progress</p> <p>have a safe, secure and stable place to live</p> <p>able to access and navigate relevant services, independently or with advocacy if needed</p> <p>able to access stimulating and enjoyable leisure and cultural opportunities</p> <p>transition successfully to adult's services, if further support is necessary</p>
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Appendix 2: Early Help Approach Diagramme



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Children and Education Select Committee  
Thursday 19 September 2013

## The Surrey Family Support Programme and Transforming Public Services

**Purpose of the report:** Policy Development and Review

This report contains an outline of the Surrey Family Support Programme's implementation model and details its progress to date. The report also describes how the programme may be expanded through the Surrey Transforming Public Services Network.

### Introduction:

1. The Surrey Family Support Programme is the name we have given to the local implementation of the Government's Troubled Families Programme.
2. This paper summarises the Surrey Family Support Programme's strategy and implementation for working with families with complex and multiple needs.
3. The Surrey Family Support Programme formed part of our successful bid to join the government's Transforming Public Services Network to develop a community budget approach for local public services. This report provides information on the programme's approach to community budgets and outlines the development plan for scaling up the programme.

### Overview

#### 4. The Government's Troubled Families Programme

- 4.1 The national Troubled Families Programme seeks to target interventions at those families who have the most problems and who can sometimes cause the most problems in their communities. The government estimates that £9 billion is spent each year on these families and that the national programme will reduce these

costs, and seek to ensure that the children of these families do not themselves have troubled families of their own.

4.2 The government plans to turn around the lives of 120,000 families by May 2015. The coordination of the National Programme is through the government's Troubled Families Unit, based in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) with the local management of the programme given to upper tier authorities. The government funding for the programme is through a payment by results arrangement whereby local authorities are paid £4,000 for each family turned around by the 2015 deadline. Some of this payment by results money is available in advance to 'pump prime' local services.

5. Through the Family Support Programme Surrey agencies plan to achieve the following outcomes:

- prioritise multi-agency working with those families with the greatest difficulties where we can make the most progress at the fastest rate;
- make a step change in the quality and volume of multi-agency working with vulnerable families and children, introducing a single family assessment and plan;
- developing effective family support practice and a sustainable model of partnership working for all vulnerable families;
- shift the balance of resources away from high cost acute services to lower cost preventative services and to help make service efficiencies for all participating agencies; and
- improve outcomes for all the vulnerable families who take part.

## 6. Families with multiple needs in Surrey

6.1 The convention in Surrey has been to define families with multiple and complex problems as those families who have three or more professionals working with the family from two or more agencies. It is estimated that at any given time there may be up to 7,000 such families living in the county.

6.2 The government has defined the families eligible for funding through the Troubled Families programme as those who meet each of the following criteria:

- have children not attending school - +15% unauthorised absence, excluded pupils, etc;
- are involved in anti-social behaviour, e.g. young offenders, adults with Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO), families with an anti-social behaviour related housing order; and

- have an adult claiming an unemployment benefit.
- 6.3 Surrey has been given the target of turning around the lives of 1050 families by May 2015. We are required to include in the local programme all those families that meet all three of the criteria cited above. Where the number of these families falls short of the 1050 target we can then take those families who meet two of the criteria and make up the number by adding in a local discretionary criteria. We have chosen as the local discretionary factor: 'families of concern.'
- 6.4 A family of concern is defined as a family where one or more of the following issues are present: Children in Need (CiN), mental ill-health issues, drugs and alcohol problems, Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) and or at risk of becoming NEET, families at risk of becoming homeless, ex-prisoners and families with incidences of domestic abuse. Further categories may be added as the programme develops.
- 6.5 Because adult unemployment and anti-social behaviour is relatively low in Surrey we have many families who, whilst presenting with multiple problems, will not meet the government funding criteria, e.g. single parent families with pre-school children who have complex and multiple needs.

## **7. The Surrey Family Support Programme model**

- 7.1 In 2012 Surrey public agencies agreed that families with multiple and complex needs are the responsibility for all agencies, and that a multi-agency approach is required to successfully support these families. A programme was developed and based around public agencies agreeing to the following arrangements:
- 7.2 *The local coordination of support to these families is led by Surrey's eleven Borough and District councils, supported by all other agencies.* Each borough and district council will manage a Family Support Team that brings together local agencies to identify the families who will benefit from the programme, and coordinate the local partnership working around the families.
- 7.3 *All relevant agencies will work as part of a Team Around the Family for each of the families in the programme.* The local Family Support Team will bring together the practitioners working with each family and facilitate them in working systematically as a Team Around the Family with one of the professionals taking on a lead professional role.
- 7.4 *All the families in the programme will undergo a single multi-agency assessment of their needs and have a single multi-agency support plan.* This single assessment and plan will be developed by the Team Around the Family who will meet with the family on a six weekly basis to review progress and adapt the plan.

- 7.5 *All the families in the programme will be given a period of intensive support.* In addition to support from the Team Around the Family, this support will be carried out in the families' home for an average of 12 weeks and provided by a locally based Family Coordinator.
- 7.6 *Using innovative social media we will create a Team Around the Community in each borough and district.* Using the Patchwork Professional Networking tool we will link up all practitioners who work with families with multiple and complex needs in each area;
- 7.7 *Adults involved in the programme will be helped into work and/or offered as an alternative a meaningful community activity-* for most adults in the programme there will be a clear expectation that getting a paid job will be a key outcome for their family. For some adults it might be volunteering and/or effective engagement in education, training and or other activities that promote good health and positive community participation;
- 7.8 *All arrangements will be governed through the partnership approach.* Local teams and networks are supported through professional support from the countywide agencies.
- 7.9 The development of this model has been informed and supported through learning from the pilot service, consultations with key stakeholders and the cross-select committee Member-led Supporting Families Task Group.

## **8. Implementation:**

- 8.1 Work started in 2012 has identified over 1,000 families who might be eligible for the local programme. The risk factors prevalent across these families include offending, long-term worklessness, intergenerational worklessness, obesity, smoking, mental health, drugs and alcohol poor parenting of pre-school children, homeless families, families living with domestic abuse and other factors. These same issues also feature significantly with local families in acute services, such as families with children in Child Protection proceedings, the families of Surrey's Looked After Children and adult families receiving repeat and ongoing support in local health and care systems. There is a clear case to shift the balance of resources away from high cost acute services to lower cost preventative services.
- 8.2 Phase 1 of the implementation is complete with local teams and arrangements in place for Woking, Guildford, Waverley, Reigate & Banstead, Elmbridge and Spelthorne.
- 8.3 At June 2013 we had brought 358 families into the Family Support Programme, with only 31 families so far refusing the offer of help.
- 8.4 The programme will be extended to Mole Valley, Tandridge, Epsom & Ewell, Surrey Heath, and Runnymede from October 2013.

8.5 It is planned that a further 500 families will join the Programme by April 2014.

## **9. Department for Communities and Local Government Visit - 20 June 2013:**

9.1 Senior civil servants visited Surrey to check on our programme last month and joined a workshop that reviewed progress so far. In their feedback they told us that we were the leading two-tier area on Troubled Families and we have been asked to offer support to other counties on this work.

9.2 A letter from the DCLG following this visit stated:

a) "We were struck by the depth of knowledge, obvious ability and determination of all of those we met, to make a significant difference for the lives of your most challenged and challenging families.

It was clear to us that the role the District Councils and Boroughs is both central and crucial to the continued success of your programme. Their leadership of the "Place Agenda" in Surrey was explicit and clear to see. It was evident that this relationship was no accident and has been arrived at through many years of relationship building and partnership work between the District Councils/Boroughs and the County Council. This strong foundation has clearly supported the progress that has been made with your families".

## **10. Comprehensive spending review announcement on Troubled Families:**

10.1 Included in the June 26 2013 comprehensive spending review was an announcement to extend the national programme to 2020 and expand the families to be included to 400,000. The detail of the new programme will not be known until closer to 2015.

## **11. Transforming Public Services**

11.1 The Surrey Family Support Programme formed part of our successful bid to join the government's Transforming Public Services Network to develop a community budget approach for local public services.

11.2 Public service transformation has its roots in the Whole Place Community Budget initiative. During 2012, four areas in England began trialling Community Budgets as a mechanism for tackling some of their biggest local challenges, from domestic violence to skills and employment. The areas involved were Cheshire West and Chester, Essex, Greater Manchester and the London Tri-Borough (Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster). In each of those four localities, public services, business and the voluntary sector have been working together to

develop new and sometimes radical joint responses to those challenges.

11.3 The key purpose of Transforming Public Services is to look at the whole system of service delivery instead of discrete services; establish an evidence base and create new models of investment to set up and sustain the most effective interventions.

11.4 The ambition is to reduce overall public expenditure in an area by refocusing resources from reactive and expensive acute interventions towards prevention and earlier intervention. Through joining the network we can draw down on support and advice from elsewhere in the country on developing our business case to improve outcomes and save money. We will also be able to draw in additional funds from Whitehall agencies.

11.5 To date the first wave community budget pilots are reporting cashable savings of between £15K and £30K for each of the families in their local integrated family service pilots.

11.6 The Surrey plan is to scale up the current services to cover between 4,000 and 7,000 families over three years from 2014-18 by including in the new programme families that sit outside of the DCLG's criteria for Troubled Families. Examples will include:

- families living with domestic violence
- families with multiple and complex needs with pre-school children
- families with multiple and complex needs and low income
- offenders and ex-prisoners
- families with mental ill-health and/or drugs and alcohol misuse
- multiple unemployment/NEET households
- multiple adult social care needs households
- families who frequently visit A&E
- families at risk of homelessness.

11.7 The Greater Manchester Troubled Families business case offers Surrey a provisional understanding of the potential savings we can aim to make by joining the Transforming Public Services Network. The Troubled Families team in Manchester is also working with around 1000 families and has similar funding and investment requirements. Through a cost-benefit analysis tool, which they formulated with support from the DCLG and HM Treasury, they estimate cashable savings across all public agencies of £20million.

11.8 The Surrey Family Support Programme is currently developing its own county specific cost-benefit analysis, with support and advice gathered from the local authorities that participated in the Community Budget pilots. Following this analysis we will be able to provide a detailed and costed projection of the cashable savings for a scaled up programme.



11.9 Work is under way to develop an outline business case for cross-agency agreement by October 2013 to be followed by working up a detailed, costed business plan over the autumn.

## **12. Conclusions:**

12.1 Good progress has been made in implementing this new multi-agency programme and the indications to date are that the programme will succeed in supporting families with multiple needs. The DCLG is pleased with Surrey's progress.

12.2 The programme will be extended and expanded through to the Transforming Public Services Initiative with local partners and central government. Work on developing the programme will take place over autumn and will conclude as part of the budget setting arrangements in the New Year.

## **13. Recommendations:**

13.1 Members are asked to note the significant contribution the Family Support Programme will play as part of the emerging Early Help Strategy.

## **14. Next steps:**

14.1 A report will be presented to Cabinet on 22 October 2013, outlining The Surrey Family Support Programme's business case for Transforming Public Services.

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Simon Montgomery, Project Officer, Surrey Family Support Programme

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### **Sources/background papers:**

DCLG (March 2012) The Troubled Families Programme: Financial Framework for the Troubled Families programme's payment-by-results scheme for local authorities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-communities-and-local-government/series/troubled-families-programme-financial-framework>)

DCLG (July 2012) Listening to Troubled Families

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/listening-to-troubled-families>)

DCLG (December 2012) Working with Troubled Families: a guide to evidence and good practise (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-troubled-families-a-guide-to-evidence-and-good-practice>)

DCLG (January 2013) The Cost of Troubled Families

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cost-of-troubled-families>)

LGA (March 2013) A Guide to Whole Place Community Budgets

([http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-](http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/3969852/PUBLICATION)

[/journal\\_content/56/10180/3969852/PUBLICATION](http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/3969852/PUBLICATION))



Children and Education Select Committee  
Thursday 19 September 2013

## Public Health, Early Help and the Supporting Families Programme

**Purpose of the report:** Policy Development and Review

A brief report on how the public health prevention agenda can support and compliment the early help and the Family Support Programme.

### Introduction:

1. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2013, the Public Health function transferred from the NHS to the County Council. Public Health's key role is to protect and improve the health of the population and reduce health inequalities.
2. This paper summarises how the public health prevention strategy and implementation for children, young people and families can support and compliment the early help offer and the Family Support Programme.

### Overview:

3. There are three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection, and health and social care quality.
4. In the transfer of Public Health the Government mandated local authorities to deliver a number of steps and services, they are;
  - steps to be taken to protect the health of the local population
  - ensuring NHS commissioners (Clinical Commissioning Groups) receive the public health advice they need
  - appropriate access to sexual health services
  - the National Child Measurement Programme
  - NHS Health Check assessment
5. The Government published the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) that allows Local Authorities to benchmark their progress against

other local authorities and by which we will provide assurance to the Government that we are delivering key public health outcomes for the population of Surrey.

## Health and Wellbeing Board priorities

### Why is prevention important?

6. Preventing disease before it starts is critical to helping people live longer, healthier lives and keeping health and social care costs down.
7. The top risk factors contributing to the overall burden of disease are;
  - smoking
  - poor diet,
  - physical inactivity and
  - alcohol misuse
  - emotional wellbeing and mental health
8. Many of the strongest predictors of health and well-being fall outside of the health care setting. Our housing, employment, education, environment and lifestyle choices are major elements that impact the physical and mental health of our population including children, young people and families. Hence weaving prevention into our everyday lives at the earliest opportunity is important.
9. The Marmot Review looks at the differences in health and well-being between social groups and describes how the social gradient on health inequalities is reflected in the social gradient on educational attainment, employment, income, quality of neighbourhood. In addressing health inequalities, the Marmot Review asserts that it is not sufficient just to focus on the bottom 10 per cent because there are poorer outcomes all the way down from the top. Universal action is needed to reduce the steepness of the social gradient of health inequalities, but with a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage. The review clearly explains that social and economic inequalities underpin the determinants of health and expresses the importance of preventing ill health and health inequalities through the lifecourse approach.

### Healthy and Risky Behaviours priorities

10. The Children's Health and Wellbeing Group is accountable to the Health and Wellbeing board for the Children's priority within the joint health and wellbeing strategy. The priorities were determined via consultation with key stakeholders. They have committed to two areas that Public Health has the lead for within the Children and Young People's Priority:
  - Healthy Behaviours (universal provision for all children, young people and families) and
  - Risky Behaviours (targeted provision, aimed at those more likely to engage in risky behaviours due to the environment they find themselves in for example looked after children or young people known to the justice system)

11. The aim of these priorities is to ensure more families; children and young people develop and maintain healthy behaviours and prevent the take up of risky behaviours.
12. The universal approach is inclusive and aims to ensure that all children, young people and families obtain the health services they need and that services are accessible and have sufficient capacity of well-trained staff.
13. The targeted approach aims to prioritise certain children, young people or families such as young people known to the youth justice system that maybe more at risk of developing unhealthy behaviours or vulnerable such looked after children.

<b>Healthy Behaviour (universal offer)</b>	<b>Risky Behaviour (targeted offer)</b>
Promotion of breastfeeding to everyone	Promotion of breastfeeding to certain groups such as teenage parents
Increasing the uptake of immunisations to everyone	Increasing the uptake of immunisations in certain groups such as Gypsy, Roma and Travellers
Reducing tooth decay	
Promoting of healthy eating and healthy weight to everyone	Promoting healthy eating and healthy weight to those living in more deprived wards within Surrey
Increasing levels of physical activity in children, young people and families	
Preventing children and young people misusing substances including tobacco and alcohol	Preventing children and young people misusing substances including tobacco and alcohol who are most at risk of misusing such as young people that are not in employment, education and training
Promoting good relationships and sexual health behaviours	Promoting good relationships and sexual health behaviours to those at risk of becoming a teenage parents such as Looked After Children
Preventing accidents in all settings	

**How can the Public Health agenda support and compliment the Early Help agenda?**

14. Early Help is defined as providing support downstream before the problem emerges, similar to the Public Health prevention agenda which is about preventing the problem from emerging in the first place. Public Health can support and compliment the Early Help agenda by supporting families and children and young people maintain healthy behaviours and prevent the take up of risky behaviours. Examples of how are illustrated below;
  - Promoting breastfeeding - ensuring those providing local Early Help services have a consistent message with regards to the benefits of breastfeeding and support services available. The benefits of

breastfeeding are endless but in particular it improves bonding between mother and child.

- Increasing the uptake of immunisations – ensure local Early Help services have a consistent message with regards to the benefits of immunisations and when the immunisations are scheduled. Immunisation is one of the most effective Public Health interventions and prevents many serious childhood infections.
- Reducing tooth decay in children and young people – ensure local Early Help services raise awareness of the importance of registering with a dentist. Preventing tooth decay in children and young people is important to ensure their speech and language develops.
- Promoting healthy eating and healthy weight – ensure local Early Help services are equip to support families maintain a healthy weight, through awareness of healthy eating and how to provide a healthy balance diet. Promotion healthy start to eligible families. Healthy weight is important for overall health and can help you prevent and control many diseases and conditions such as type 2 diabetes and certain cancers.
- Increasing levels of physical activity in children, young people and families – ensure local Early Help services raise awareness of importance of being physical active as a family. Physical activity in childhood is important to build strong bones and muscles.
- Substance misuse including tobacco and alcohol – ensure local Early Help services are equip to support future parents to make positive choices about their health such as stopping smoking. Smoking is the still the greatest cause of illness and early death and the earlier you start the more serious the outcome.
- Promoting good relationships and sexual health behaviours – ensure Early Help services are aware of services available. Healthy relationships are important for children and adolescent development.
- Preventing accidents – ensure local Early Help services are equip to supporting families to make their home environment is safe and secure and child friendly.

15. Public Health can also support the Early Help agenda by sharing the evidence and best practice they are aware of with regards to what works in improving the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

### **How Public Health can support and compliment the Early Help and Supporting Families agenda**

16. There are three main areas where Public Health can support (core offer) the Supporting Families and Early Help agenda;

- *Training:* The Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) has an accredited 'understanding health improvement' module that the public health team are trained to delivered. Public Health also has thematic training that key staff from Early Help and Supporting Families could attend. The organisation of this is underway for the Family Support Workers for January/February 2014.
- *Commissioning:* Public Health commissions the school nursing service and other 5-19 year old services such as substance tier 2 services. We can ensure key families are prioritised through these contracts and pathways are in place. We can also ensure key outcomes are included as key performance indicators.
- *Evaluation:* Public Health has skills in evaluation and contacts at the University of Surrey. Developments are underway to look at a local evaluation of the Family Support Programme.

### Conclusions:

17. Currently there is a lot good work being delivered with regards to Public Health, Early Help and the Supporting Families with a lot of synergies.
18. Key steps need to be put in place to make the most of the current similarities in improving children and young people's health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities by aligning and co-ordinating the work that is being delivered.
19. Public Health has developed a 'core offer' for the supporting families' programme, these needs to be replicated for the Early Help agenda.

### Recommendations:

20. That the Directorate and its partner agencies continue to:
  - a) Ensure all commissioned services have a universal and targeted prevention element;
  - b) Mirror the Public Health core offer to the Family Support Programme to staff working under the Early Help umbrella.

### Next steps:

Identify future actions and dates.

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Children & Education Select Committee  
19 September 2013

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME & RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER**

1. The Committee is asked to review its forward work programme and recommendations tracker, which are attached.
2. The recommendations tracker allows Committee Members to monitor responses, actions and outcomes against their recommendations or requests for further actions. The tracker is updated after each Committee. Once an action has been completed and reported to the Committee, it will be removed from the tracker. The next progress check will highlight to Members where actions have not been dealt with.
3. In addition, there is an attached report outlining a proposed approach for contributing to the development of Surrey's strategy for improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people.

**Recommendation:**

That the Committee reviews its forward work programme and recommendations tracker.

**Next Steps:**

The Committee will review its forward work programme recommendations tracker at each of its meetings.

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**Sources/background papers:** None.

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**CHILDREN & EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER – UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2013**

The recommendations tracker allows Committee Members to monitor responses, actions and outcomes against their recommendations or requests for further actions. The tracker is updated following each Select Committee. Once an action has been completed, it will be shaded out to indicate that it will be removed from the tracker at the next meeting. The next progress check will highlight to members where actions have not been dealt with.

**Recommendations:**

Date of meeting and reference	Item	Recommendations	To	Response	Progress Check On
31 June 2013	<b>INCREASING THE EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY</b>	That the Committee look to further explore the provision of careers advice and information and guidance in Surrey, with a particular focus on consistency.	Chairman/Scrutiny Officer	Officers to draw up a proposal for a light touch review of IAG. Need to indentify a small group of interested members to lead.	September 2013
		That Members of the Council be encouraged to become a care leaver sponsor.	Chairman/Scrutiny Officer	Discussions have taken place with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families. She intends to raise awareness amongst members by making a Member Statement at Council, noting that the Children & Education Select Committee supports greater member involvement.	Done
		That Cabinet consider how students who are unlikely to be eligible for a combined plan will be supported following the introduction of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) and the cessation of School Action and School Action Plus, so as not to jeopardise their chances of post-16 participation.	Cabinet	A recommendation has been sent to the September Cabinet meeting. Response expected for November meeting.	November 2013

Date of meeting and reference	Item	Recommendations	To	Response	Progress Check On
		That the direction of travel detailed in the Employability Plan is supported, and officers and partners congratulated on the work so far, whilst acknowledging the challenges and financial pressures ahead.	Cabinet	This was included in the above recommendation to Cabinet.	Done
		That the Assistant Director for Young People clarify whether the peer review action plan meeting will take place on 4 October 2013 and that the Committee be informed of the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the review.	Assistant Director for Young People	A planning meeting has been scheduled for 4 October at which officers will devise an action plan based on the key issues that came out of the peer review. This will involve C&D managers, the YSS area and team managers and network coordinators. The resulting plan will then go to the 14-19 partnership on 8th October for sign off. The plan will be based around the areas identified by the reviewers and there will be one or two SMART actions set against each area. However, the document will be kept short and concise in order to make it as usable as possible. The Scrutiny team will ensure that, once available, a copy of the Plan is shared with the Committee.	September 2013

# Children & Education Select Committee – Forward Work Programme 2013/14

10

## **19 September 2013: Early help and prevention**

- How is Surrey improving early help and prevention initiatives?
- What impact is the Families Support Programme having in Surrey?

### Why scrutinise this area?

- The Troubled Families Programme (known in Surrey as Supporting Families) is a key Government initiative.
- Improving early help and prevention services is a key priority of the Council's Children's and Young People Plan.

## **28 November 2013: Safeguarding and Child Protection**

- How is Surrey and partners working to safeguard children?
  - To include the Surrey Safeguarding Board Annual Report
- What role do Surrey schools play in safeguarding children?
- How is social worker recruitment impacting on effective child protection?

### Why scrutinise this area?

- In accordance with the Children Act (1989 and 2004), local authorities retain the lead role for safeguarding children in their area.
- The recruitment and retention of competent social workers is recognised that as critical to ensuring the quality of services delivered to vulnerable children. However, there remain significant challenges around the recruitment and retention of social workers and the increase in demand for services is causing pressure within the system.

### **27 January 2014: Reducing the Attainment Gap in Surrey (TBC)**

- How are early years informing the aspirations of young people?
- How can the attainment gap in Surrey (5+ A\*-C including English and Mathematics) be improved?
- How is the School Improvement Programme helping to narrow the gap?
- How different schools using pupil premium and the impact that is having on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils?

Why scrutinise this area?

- During 2012/13 the Education Select Committee identified that the attainment gap in Surrey was larger than many comparative authorities.
- Investing in support to schools to further improve the attainment of pupils, especially those from vulnerable groups is a priority of the Council's Children and Young People Plan.

### **27 March 2014: Looked After Children in Surrey**

- How is Surrey positively impacting upon outcomes for Looked After Children?
  - To include the role and work of the Corporate Parenting Board
- How is Surrey working to improve placement stability?

Why scrutinise this area?

- Surrey County Council has a legal duty to act as a 'corporate parent' for every child and young person who is looked after.
- Improving outcomes for vulnerable young people is a priority for the County Council.

### **14 May 2014: Joined up support for children with disabilities and complex needs**

- How is Surrey joining up support for children with disabilities?
- How prepared is Surrey to meet new legislation in this area – for example the requirement to provide and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)?
- How is Surrey's role as the SEN pathfinder for the SE7 informing the transition to a single assessment arrangement?

Why scrutinise this area?

- The Children and Families Bill places a duty on services involved in supporting children and young people with SEN to cooperate with each other and in particular requires local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to make arrangements for joint commissioning.

## Informal meetings or workshops

**School Place Planning** – For the Committee to receive a training session in school place planning and agree how they would like to receive updates in this area going forward.

**2 October 2013 – 10am**

**Meeting with the Secretary of State for Education** – Michael Gove has agreed to meet with the Committee on an informal basis within the next year.

**TBC**

**Budget workshops:** 2 budget workshops have been organised so that the Committee is able to share its views with regards to budget setting for 2014/15.

**14 October 2013 – 10am**

**22 January 2013 – 10am**

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Children and Education Select Committee  
19 September 2013

**Forward Work Programming – Surrey’s strategy for improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people**

**Purpose of the report:** Forward work programming

The purpose of this report is to agree an approach for contributing to the development of Surrey’s strategy for improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people.

**Strategy overview**

1. The Equalities Act 2011 requires public agencies to consider equality issues when procuring and commissioning services, and to take steps to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with ‘protected characteristics’, such as Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT).
2. There is considerable evidence to suggest that GRT needs have often not been fully considered when developing the services intended to support them. This has the impact of compounding poor outcomes and perpetuating inter-generational patterns of exclusion and deprivation. The costs of this are high, both in terms of lost opportunities for GRT children and young people themselves, and the increased financial burden for public agencies supporting higher levels of need when health and social care problems escalate.
3. Surrey’s strategy will aim to identify how the Children, School and Families directorate, and wider partners, can reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for Surrey’s GRT children and young people.

**Proposed approach for Select Committee involvement**

4. Due to the wide remit of the Children & Education Select Committee, it is not possible to scrutinise all items at formal meetings. However, there are many other methods that the Select Committee can use outside of formal meetings such as task groups, Member Reference Groups, one-off meetings and site visits.

5. Member Reference Groups (MRGs) are an effective way through which Select Committees can contribute to policy development. MRGs consist of a small group of Members who meet informally with officers to act as a sounding board for the policy they are developing. MRGs update the Select Committee update on their work either through the Committee bulletin or brief updates at formal meetings.
6. It is envisioned that this MRG would only need to meet once to contribute to the policy prior to it going to Cabinet for decision in December 2013.

<b>Recommendations:</b>
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- a) That the Children & Education Select Committee sets up a Member Reference Group to contribute to the development of Surrey's strategy for improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people.
- b) That, should the Committee approve recommendation a), they appoint 2-4 Members to sit on the group.

<b>Next steps:</b>
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If the Select Committee approves the recommendations above, a meeting of the MRG will be scheduled for late October. The MRG will be expected to report back to the rest of the Select Committee at the next formal meeting in November.

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**Sources/background papers:** None