

## Notice of Meeting

# Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee



Date & time	Place	Contact	Interim Head of Paid Service
Tuesday, 30 July 2024 at 10.00 am	Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, RH2 8EF	Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer  julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk	Michael Coughlin  We're on X: @SCCdemocracy

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**This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer on [julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk).**

### **Elected Members**

Fiona Davidson (Guildford South-East) (Chair), Jonathan Essex (Redhill East), Bob Hughes (Shere), Rebecca Jennings-Evans (Lightwater, West End and Bisley), Rachael Lake BEM (Walton), Bernie Muir (Epsom West), John O'Reilly (Hersham), Mark Sugden (Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott), Ashley Tilling (Walton South & Oatlands), Liz Townsend (Cranleigh & Ewhurst), Chris Townsend (Ashtead) (Vice-Chairman), Jeremy Webster (Caterham Hill) (Vice-Chairman) and Fiona White (Guildford West)

### **Independent Representatives**

Mrs Julie Oldroyd (Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church) and Mr Alex Tear (Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church, Diocese of Guildford)

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Children's Services (including safeguarding)
- Early Help
- Corporate Parenting
- Education
- Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities
- Adult Learning
- Apprenticeships
- Libraries, Arts and Heritage
- Voluntary Sector

## **AGENDA**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

To receive any apologies for absence and substitutions.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 17 APRIL 2024**

(Pages 5  
- 24)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter:

- I. Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- II. Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting.

#### **NOTES:**

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner).
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

### **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 (*24 July 2024*).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*23 July 2024*).
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

The public retain their right to submit questions for written response, with such answers recorded in the minutes of the meeting; questioners may participate in meetings to ask a supplementary question. Petitioners may address the Committee on their petition for up to three minutes Guidance

will be made available to any member of the public wishing to speak at a meeting.

**5 CABINET RESPONSE TO SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 25 - 48)

To note the responses to recommendations submitted by the Select Committee to Cabinet on 25 June 2024:

- Children, Families And Lifelong Learning (CFLL) Additional Budget Allocation
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programmes and Specialist Sufficiency to 2031/32.

**6 ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PLAN** (Pages 49 - 68)

To review the actions and recommendations tracker and forward work programme, making suggestions for additions of amendments as appropriate.

**7 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE (H2STA) UPDATE** (Pages 69 - 118)

To receive an update on progress made against the Select Committee's December 2023 recommendations, the latest position on KPIs, impact of EHCP Recovery Plan to date and how the service sees the future for H2STA.

**8 CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023/4 & PERFORMANCE REPORT IN RELATION TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN FOR 2022/2023** (Pages 119 - 184)

To receive an annual report for the last financial year on the delivery of Corporate Parenting within Surrey County Council. To review key performance data on Looked After Children for year ending March 2023, as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally.

**9 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW** (Pages 185 - 200)

To apprise the Committee of the latest Children, Families and Lifelong Learning performance information.

**10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next public meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 12 September 2024.

**Michael Coughlin**  
**Interim Head of Paid Service**  
Published: Monday, 22 July 2024

## **MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE**

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*Thank you for your co-operation*

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00 am on 17 April 2024 at Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, RH2 8EF.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 27 June 2024.

**Elected Members present**

- \* Fiona Davidson (Chair)
- \* Jonathan Essex
- \* Robert Hughes
- \* Rebecca Jennings-Evans
- r Rachael Lake
- \* Bernie Muir
- \* John O'Reilly
- \* Mark Sugden
- \* Ashley Tilling
- \* Liz Townsend
- \* Chris Townsend (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Jeremy Webster (Vice-Chairman)
- Fiona White

**Co-opted Members:**

r Mrs Julie Oldroyd, Roman Catholic diocesan representative

Mr Alex Tear, Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church, Diocese of Guildford

\*Present

r remote

**11/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rachael Lake and Mrs Julie Oldroyd, who both attended remotely.

## **12/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 15 FEBRUARY 2024 [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## **13/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

Cllr Essex declared that he sits on the Facilities Environment Committee of the YMCA. Cllr O'Reilly declared he is a Trustee to the Hersham Youth Trust.

## **14/24 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]**

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. There were no questions from the public. Responses to the four Member Questions have been attached to these minutes.
2. As a supplementary to her Member Question, Cllr Davidson asked if Mindworks would be willing to investigate the experiences of parents she refers to them who are having difficulty accessing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder expertise.
3. Cllr Essex followed up his question on Betchwood Vale Academy asking if it was a change in Government policy that meant the Council was unable to intervene, as the school would be built by a third party. A written answer would be provided to him.
4. In relation to his question on the Reigate Valley College relocation, Cllr Essex asked why the fire station site in Reigate was excluded and why split site solutions had been discounted on financial grounds. A written answer would be provided to him.
5. Cllr Essex asked if the Council would seek to recoup what it had appeared to continue to pay to two special schools following their off-rolling of two children. The Director for Education said there could be a number of reasons for that situation and she was happy to look into both cases.

## **15/24 ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PLAN [Item 5]**

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Select Committee planned to scrutinise the topic of Children Missing Education in September 2024. The Chair commented children not in education required a great deal more attention from both Surrey County Council and schools, noting that between September 2023-February 2024, 2,942 children in maintained schools in Surrey had been absent for more than 15 days, of whom 3.8% received Alternative Provision.

2. The Chair added that Members did not feel reassured by the Service's response to the Committee's recommendations on Alternative Provision (AP). The Committee was concerned about how the Service would monitor the education being provided to those 42% of young people who had been absent from school for more than 15 days and were not enrolled in a PRU/AP Academy. For those pupils in receipt of AP, the Chair hoped to see an improvement in the proportion receiving 15 or more hours a week, currently at 15 per cent, and looked forward to reviewing tracking reports on all children receiving AP at a future Committee.
3. Following recommendations made on the recruitment and retention of foster carers, the Chair looked forward to welcoming back the Surrey County Foster Carer Association in the future to update the Committee. She remarked it would be interesting to have an independent review of Surrey's foster care recruitment and retention strategy of the sort undertaken by King's College on Hampshire.

## **16/24 CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LIFELONG LEARNING (CFLL) ADDITIONAL BUDGET ALLOCATION [Item 6]**

### **Witnesses**

Cllr Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Cllr Maureen Attewell, Deputy Cabinet Member Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Cllr Catherine Powell

Tina Benjamin, Director – Corporate Parenting

Julia Katherine, Director – Education and Lifelong Learning

Chris Tisdall, Head of Commissioning – Corporate Parenting

Kay Goodacre, Strategic Finance Business Partner for CFL

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Chair summarised the areas where opinion differed on how to allocate the additional Children, Families and Lifelong Learning budget coming from Surrey's share of the £600m additional allocation announced by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in January 2024: (a) the Service wants to develop inclusive play rather than continue to support play and leisure breaks for children with additional needs and disabilities suggested by Cllr Powell; (b) the Service supports the need for additional support in schools for neurodiverse children but does not support targeting areas of high deprivation suggested by Cllr Powell; and (c) the Select Committee questions the value of international social worker recruitment proposed by the Service.

2. A Member asked the Service to explain the inclusive play it espouses and the evidence base for its outcomes. The Head of Commissioning – Corporate Parenting explained it would make the mainstream more inclusive, for example allow children with additional needs to access sports clubs in their community. Surrey could learn from other local authorities already doing this, for instance Hampshire and Wandsworth. It had been discussed with 30 parents so far in a co-production programme. He assured the Committee that inclusive play would not undermine the current £370,000 play and leisure offer. A Member said they would like to get rid of the deficit in the current SEND play and leisure offer, i.e. address the waiting list in this area, before introducing another scheme. The Head of Commissioning – Corporate Parenting noted that, unlike some other local authorities, Surrey County Council (SCC) did not have an eligibility threshold and this open approach made it hard to give an answer on how many eligible children were waiting. The Cabinet Member thought this open approach might have to change.
3. Asked how many play and leisure places for children with additional needs and disabilities (AND) were available versus how many were needed, the Head of Commissioning – Corporate Parenting responded that about 1,400 children accessed 140,000 hours of play and leisure breaks each year and about 350 children and young people were on a waiting list. Access was at the discretion of SCC, whose statutory duty was to provide overnight short breaks, rather than enabling every child with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for example to access a play and leisure scheme.
4. The Cabinet Member said SCC was not obliged by statute to provide play and leisure but it was highly valued by families of children with additional needs, many of whom had difficulty in finding childcare, and should be seen in the context of preparation for adulthood and promoting independence. She was saddened by a point in the SEND inspection report that a number of young people with additional needs did not feel included or welcome in their community, and felt sports clubs becoming more inclusive may help to address that. From September 2026, every school will have to provide access to wraparound childcare from 8am-6pm.
5. Explaining why she raised the budget amendment, Cllr Powell spoke of increased demand because of the increasing number of children with EHCPs, and the need to reopen waiting lists that closed due to the 2023/24 reduction in services. The Equality Impact Assessment had stated the increased pressure on families of children with disabilities would likely lead in some cases to the contribution of family breakdown if not mitigated, leading to increased costs for SCC. Parents told Family Voice the reduced service had led to significant mental health pressures on the family and reduced child confidence. In one case the respite was said to be the difference between the child staying in the family or going into residential care. Cllr Powell did not believe inclusive provision was able to meet all needs.
6. The Service was asked if it would support more funding focused on neurodiversity need in school catchment areas of higher child need/deprivation in Lower Super Output Area domains, or if alternatively it



believed there should be a priority on identifying and targeting geographic clusters of identified neurodiversity need, regardless of prevailing socio-economic factors. The Director for Education and Lifelong Learning questioned whether targeting would take into account just the school location or its catchment area, explaining that although none of the 18 schools included in the Schools Inclusion for Autism pilot were in those areas, many of the pupils live in such areas. She proposed deprivation was one of a number of factors that should be considered when targeting, including attendance, exclusions and percentage of AND pupils within the school. She added that the Council could not insist that any schools take up an offer of support or direct them to do so. Asked why a school would not want to take it up, the Director answered that they might feel they cannot give it the attention needed to have impact if they have other ongoing initiatives, or they could perhaps have an alternative idea to meet need.

7. A Member queried how many schools would be categorised as in an area of high deprivation and whether, if these schools were prioritised, there would be any remaining capacity. He also enquired how low level of attainment in language and communication when starting school mapped against areas of deprivation across Surrey. The Director responded it was a problem that had worsened due to the pandemic and she would provide figures.
8. The Cabinet Member said most programmes already in place had been piloted first. The Council did not manage any school and could not dictate to or impose on schools; each one was an autonomous organisation accountable to its governing body or trust.
9. Cllr Powell said it was acknowledged that it would take a decade for the gap in attainment between the most disadvantaged pupils and others return to what it was before Covid. Schools in areas of deprivation were also dealing with the challenges of higher numbers of children with neurodiversity and more safeguarding issues. Forty-five Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) of Surrey were in the bottom 20 per cent of the country. Two of the Service's universal suggested services provided advice that would require extra time and energy on the part of the schools.
10. A Member asked what lessons were learned from the last occasion international social workers were recruited, who were understood to have left due to cultural differences and some experiencing racism from service users. The Director for Corporate Parenting informed that out of the 33 recruited via an agency in 2022, 20 still worked for Children and Families and four had transferred to Adult Services. SCC had held workshops to learn what worked for them and found non-office working had led to a number of people used to living and working in another country feeling isolated. In West Sussex Council's international campaign they had a pastoral focus and did more preparation with the employees before they left their native countries. She added that any reported abuse was always followed up. The Member said mentoring and whether they brought dependents should be considered. A Member suggested a need to understand why social workers were leaving the profession rather than bringing workers from abroad who would have

loneliness to deal with in addition to the demands of the role. The Director said in one retention initiative, social workers were being given clinical support to debrief.

11. Asked what impact the £5,000 per annum market supplement recommended by the Select Committee and introduced in December 2023 had had on social worker recruitment and retention this year, the Director for Corporate Parenting said since its implementation, which had brought pay more in line with that of neighbouring authorities, five agency staff had moved into permanent roles. In Family Safeguarding, the retention rate had increased to 76 per cent in March 2024 from 68 per cent in December 2023, a significant difference in three months.
12. The Chair explained that the £370,000 allocated to SEND play and leisure would not necessarily fully restore all the hours that were available in 2022/23 and this would not be known until negotiations with providers had been concluded. Therefore, the Committee would like some of the £500,000 being considered for play and leisure funding additional to this £370,000, which is proposed by the Service for a programme developing more inclusive practice in mainstream provision, to be redirected to bring down the waiting lists for play and leisure for children with additional needs.
13. A Member questioned the value of piloting inclusive play and thought the Committee should take one side or the other rather than doing both at once. The Chair said both could be funded and the pilots were to understand how well integrated play could serve the anticipated needs in each quadrant. The Strategic Finance Business Partner confirmed there was money ringfenced to Children, Families and Lifelong Learning that had not yet been allocated to specific projects.

## **Actions**

1. Scrutiny Officer to reshare briefing on supply and demand for short breaks provided in July 2023.
2. Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to answer: How many schools would be included in the Enhanced Language and Communication Initiative if focusing first on the areas of high deprivation; and would that utilise the whole capacity (up to 50 schools) for the programme or not?
3. Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to answer: Is the low level of attainment in language and communication referred to on page 63 of the report recognised as a greater problem in areas of deprivation across the county? Please supply supporting data.

## **Resolved:**

- 1) The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee endorses the following:
  - **£4.84m** spending on prevention work proposed by CFLL;
  - **£0.05m** of one-off funding to support the expansion of the current pilot, where providers of SEND Play and Leisure or Overnight Respite groups would allow parents and carers who struggle to recruit Personal Assistants for respite to fund a session or place using their personal allowances;
  - **£0.05m** one-off funding to support the implementation and roll out of the Surrey Foster Carer Charter.
  
- 2) It also welcomes the Service's proposed **£1.8m** spend on social worker recruitment and retention, with the proviso that special measures are put in place to ensure that social workers recruited from overseas for front line roles are retained in those roles, and the effectiveness of these measures is reviewed six months after recruitment and reported back to Select Committee by the end of April 2025.
  
- 3) The Committee supports the Service's **£653,105** proposals for additional support in schools for neurodiverse children, and makes the following recommendations to demonstrate and reinforce SCC's commitment that no one is left behind:
  - a) To better understand where the need is and why, by the end of November 2024 the Service undertakes research to identify where the greatest presentation of neurodiversity need exists in the county and what the contributory factors are.
  
  - b) The offer for the Whole School Autism Friendly Reviews and the Schools Inclusion for Autism Initiatives is underpinned by the offer of implementation support to take the pressure off the schools, with **£0.3m** allocated to provide such implementation activity in schools which are struggling to cope. It will be for the Service to ascertain which schools would require this to enable them to take up the offer.
  
- 4) The Committee asks that, on completion of the co-production programme's research, a written report is produced to outline the strategy for developing and delivering integrated play and leisure across Surrey. The report should detail what integrated play will be delivered by whom, to whom, where, and by when. It should also address how interaction with voluntary sector providers will work, along with an assessment of the strategy's anticipated impact, by comparison with existing provision, and how the transition will be achieved. It should also identify where integrated play will not meet the needs of children with additional needs and disabilities, and how it is anticipated these needs will be met.
  
- 5) Including **£0.5m** that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision (which the Committee reserves judgement on until it learns the outcome of recommendation 4), the

above initiatives cost a total of £8,196,227. The Committee understands up to £8.3 million may be available to support prevention objectives in Children's Services, which potentially leaves £103,773.

Thus the Committee recommends that all hours of SEND play and leisure provided in 2022/23 are restored in 2024/25. It has been indicated that this will now require more than the £370,000 uplift originally advised by the Service, and championed by the Select Committee. It recommends using what remains of the £8.3m to ensure that the objective of the Select Committee as originally intended is achieved – i.e. restoration of the hours of SEND play and leisure in 24/25 to 22/23 levels. If this is not sufficient to restore 2022/23 hours, it recommends the necessary funding is taken from the **£0.5m** that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision.

## **17/24 YOUTH WORK PROVISION [Item 7]**

### **Witnesses**

Cllr Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Cllr Maureen Attewell, Deputy Cabinet Member Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Jackie Clementson, Assistant Director – Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service

Dave McLean, Service Manager – Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service

Elaina Phillips, Commissioning Officer – Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service

Judith Brooks, Head of Children & Young People and Deputy CEO - YMCA East Surrey

Stuart Kingsley, Family Services and Youth Work Manager - YMCA East Surrey

Melissa Salisbury, Hale Community Centre Manager

Jo Goodhew, Hale Youth Centre Team Leader

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Hale Youth Centre Team Leader informed that the centre serves 45-50 young people aged 11-19 in eight sessions a week, providing a safe space in which they can talk to a trusted adult. The building is leased for free from Surrey County Council (SCC) who maintain it. They could not run without volunteers. There are also paid staff employed to secure funding, which comes from National Lottery and Waverley Borough Council. Aside from SCC's holiday activity camps for those on free school meals, the centre runs term-time only, due to funding rather than staff

availability, which can lead to distress in the summer holidays when young people feel deserted.

2. The YMCA Surrey's Youth Work Manager told the Committee they deliver 20 sessions a week in Reigate and Banstead, with SCC offering a peppercorn rent and paying for utilities. They had secured Safer Streets and National Lottery funding, would not be able to do their work without the building, and report back quarterly to SCC. Recruiting was a barrier.
3. Asked how provision differed from before a reorganisation of youth work four years ago, the Service Manager reassured Members that none of their 27 buildings were being closed or knocked down; the Council was looking to enhance the work of the third sector and not throw them out. A couple of buildings were currently closed for repairs. The Commissioning Officer explained that 14 of the 27 buildings had been leased to interested community organisations or third sector providers. The other 13, described as retained youth centres, had no interested hosts and still sat with SCC; they were fully utilised by police and health partners and managed by a business property support team. Some of the leaseholders had struggled to deliver their contractual terms in the financial landscape, meaning ten of the 14 buildings being leased out were standing empty much of the time, apart from perhaps one or two evenings a week. Meanwhile, SCC paid for the utilities and had statutory services like family centres that needed places to go, but the Service Level Agreements (SLA) meant they were not allowed to use their buildings. Leaseholders were able to generate rental income to invest in support for local families, though in many cases were not doing so.
4. A Member asked the Service how it was collecting information on which of the 14 buildings were working well. The Committee heard that the SLA, inherited by the current team, was not sufficiently effective to ask for monitoring data and provided no means of enforcement if leaseholders did not provide KPIs quarterly or meet with the Council the required two times a year. The five-year leases, due to end in 2025, allowed for termination of the lease should providers not improve, but included no criteria for what constitutes improvement.
5. The Service Manager explained that SCC's budget for its youth offer remained £1.2m, the same as in 2019 before the transformation. It was spent on buildings and more money was needed to enable them to run the service as they would want. The Assistant Director said this would be as a mixed economy, working in partnership with the voluntary sector who have a real understanding of the communities they work in. Asked if the Service believed the intended changes had been successfully delivered, the Commissioning Manager said needs had changed due to Covid, they want a blended model, and they wanted to improve relationships.

6. Members suggested a workshop for the Committee to understand what provision was available, with information provided in a paper in advance.

### **Actions**

- 1) Assistant Director – Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service to provide a list of the locations of the 27 buildings (centres referenced in paragraph 8) and how many of them are currently being used for youth work.
- 2) Provide the Committee, ahead of the workshop and confidentially if necessary, with the template Service Level Agreement for third sector providers leasing youth centre buildings.

### **Resolved:**

A workshop would be arranged with a paper circulated beforehand.

*Cllr Bernie Muir and Cllr Bob Hughes left the meeting at 1pm.*

*Break at 13:00, meeting resumed at 13:15.*

## **18/24 ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS UPDATE [Item 8]**

### **Witnesses**

Cllr Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Cllr Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth

Julia Katherine, Director – Education and Lifelong Learning

Francis Lawlor, Surrey Adult Learning Service Manager

Luke McCarthy, Economy Lead, Strategic Lead - Policy & Strategy

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Task Group Chairman remarked that he thought it was a mistake to have paused work on a centralised online database of all available training in Surrey, recommended by the task group. Surrey Adult Learning (SAL) Service Manager said following the recommendation he had sought to gain information from colleges. However, National Careers Service had since developed their own national database of courses that lead to qualifications, which Surrey Adult Learning and colleges in Surrey feed into. The Member asked if this included community learning opportunities and if it was promoted by SAL. The Service Manager said he was confident it included all courses but they did not question the outside body to check its accuracy or completeness. They did market the facility but did not test to see if residents utilised it. The Service Manager added that when, under the County Deal,

Surrey County Council (SCC) had a greater strategic oversight and leadership role for adult learning and its funding, it should then provide its own database and not go through the National Careers Service.

2. A Member asked for more information on how SCC's approach to adult learning would change following the introduction of the County Deal and devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) from 2026/27. The Service Manager said it would allow the Council to ensure it has a far greater understanding of adult learning across the whole county. Rather than just being a deliverer, it would receive about £11.5m and will be able to set out its priorities in terms of the skills agenda, community, health and wellbeing, make decisions on what it is spent on and who it funds, and set expectations for the providers it commissions. Currently SCC cannot determine how money is spent; the Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) allocate money to providers, who spend it in accordance with the National Funding Allocation Method. The Economy Lead added this would enable the Council to target provision in line with skills gaps flagged by local businesses, and to focus on particular demographics most in need.
3. The Cabinet Member leading on Adult Learning added that community learning courses were highly valued and should not be forgotten when the AEB is devolved, with the disparity between West and East availability in this area highlighted by the task group. A Member sought clarity on what the Council planned to do to address the postcode lottery from 2026/27 onwards. The Service Manager said a programme board would be set up to discuss how they want to influence the balance of provision when the County Deal is introduced in September 2026. A Skills Strategic Plan would be developed to determine what the offer should be to meet the needs of Surrey, on a health and wellbeing as well as skills basis. The Economy Lead said they met FE principals quarterly to give a steer on business needs. The £11.5m made available which would become known as the Adult Skills Fund, was not an increase in funding and would also have to also be used to develop the Skills Strategic Plan and procure and monitor contracts.
4. A Member sought assurance that free courses for residents in carbon literacy and sustainable living would be freely available to all Surrey residents as recommended, not just employees across different sectors serving the economy. Assurance was provided by the Economy Lead.
5. A Member asked if SAL was working with any of multiple charities suggested by the task group to help the Council reach vulnerable people in most need of its adult skills through the charities' local knowledge. The Service Manager responded they had worked with York Road Project and Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum and been to Oakleaf Enterprise. Scope and Mencap helped the Council in its mental health approach. Although there was some partnership

working, he said charities' first expectation tended to be to look for funding from the Council, which was not a funding body for adult learning.

6. A Member queried as to whether asylum seekers in East Surrey also had their transport to attend training provision funded, since SAL serves only the West. The Service Manager replied that while SAL uses some of its ESFA funding to pay for transport, East Surrey College chooses not to, and the County Deal would in the future allow SCC to harmonise the funding model across the county.

*Cllr Matt Furniss joined the meeting at 1.51pm.*

7. The Cabinet Member leading on Skills was asked to outline his aspirations in this area and how these fit together with those for Adult Learning. He explained that the national focus was much more on vocational skills in a drive to get people back into jobs and that was the strong focus of the Surrey Skills Plan and the Local Skills Improvement Plan created by Surrey Chambers of Commerce. He did not believe there were plans to remove community learning, much of which was paid for by individual learners. The future question would be whether they are delivered together or not.
8. The Cabinet Member noted progress made in the last nine months: £4.5m additional funding for adult skills training including Skills Bootcamps and retrofit training, a good relationship with Department for Work and Pensions for Targeted adult learning employment support in neighbourhoods including Old Dean, and a majority of education establishments signed up to Surrey's single careers hub which focuses on apprenticeships and technical education.

### **Resolved:**

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee recommends:

- 1) Lifelong Learning produces a map of which adult learning providers across the county provide what courses and where, to enable gaps in provision to be identified, by the end of July 2024.
- 2) Surrey Adult Learning and the Economy and Growth team together give renewed consideration to the Task Group's recommendations endorsed by the Select Committee in June 2023.
- 3) (a) The Cabinet Member for Children, Families, Lifelong Learning (adult learning) and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth (skills and apprenticeships) confirm in writing to what extent they believe the 2023 recommendations have been completed; and



- (b) The Lifelong Learning and Economy and Growth Services assist the Cabinet Members in the above endeavour by producing an analysis of the gap between what was recommended and what has been done, and a programme of work striving to reach completion.

*Cllr Liz Townsend left the meeting at 1.57pm.*

## **19/24 CHILDREN'S HOMES - OFSTED REPORTS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 8]**

### **Witnesses**

Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Tina Benjamin, Director – Corporate Parenting

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Chair said the Outstanding Ofsted grade of a children's home in January was testament to the staff's hard work and dedication and excellent management, and she would write to the registered manager and staff to congratulate them. She also acknowledged progress made in the two other homes inspected.

## **20/24 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW [Item 9]**

### **Witnesses**

Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Patricia Denney, Director – Quality and Performance

### **Key points made in the discussion:**

1. The Chair said she was reassured to see a clear improvement trend in the social care metrics. She noted she wanted to see more up-to-date data submitted for additional needs and disabilities.

## **21/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 10]**

The Committee noted its next public meeting would be held on Thursday 27 June 2024.

Meeting ended at 2.10 pm

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**Chair**



**Member Questions to Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee – 17 April 2024**

**Question submitted by Cllr Fiona Davidson**

- 1) There appears to be a discrepancy in the response to my supplementary question, and the initial question I asked in February about the number of paediatricians and Mindworks personnel formally trained in FASD, and the experience of parents of children with FASD. My concern on this topic is based on the experience of parents who have not found that there are currently developmental paediatricians or Mindworks personnel able to deal with children presenting with symptoms of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, despite reputable studies showing that this is a growing issue, often misdiagnosed.

How many Mindworks neurodevelopmental personnel – currently working for the service – have been formally trained in FASD?

**Response:**

Dr Raja Mukherjee, who leads the national clinic for FASD, based at the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, ran a one-day training session on FASD in October 2023 which most of the Mindworks team attended. This included the Neurodevelopmental Pathway General Manager, the ASD lead, assistant psychologists, some of the diagnostic assessors and 5 of the 6 clinicians in Spoke, who triage all referrals.

When a referral comes in, Spoke review all of the information and then indicate whether a FASD diagnostic assessment is required. Spoke receive a wealth of information at the point of referral and if they see FASD is indicated, they book in a consultation with Dr Mukherjee to discuss and confirm. The young person is then put on the diagnostic pathway with a note advising potential for FASD. It is expected that FASD will be most prevalent for looked after children, therefore New Leaf staff, (who support and provide assessments and intervention for children and young people who are in care, care leavers, adopted and/or under Special Guardianship Orders who are affected by developmental trauma and attachment difficulties) have also had FASD training so this can be identified and some clinicians are trained to complete the full diagnostic assessment.

Part of a FASD diagnostic assessment is to have a full ND diagnostic assessment (ASD/ADHD). As many of the diagnostic assessors (including the ASD lead) have also had FASD training, if suspected FASD was not identified by the Spoke team, it could be identified at this point.

In addition to this pathway, Dr Mukherjee's team are commissioned to assess 8 young people for FASD a year.

## ITEM 4 – ANNEX 1

### Question submitted by Cllr Jonathan Essex

- 2) Please can an update be provided as to the status of the new Betchwood Vale SEND school proposed in Dorking, and when and indeed if this is likely to be completed in terms of construction and attendance. If this was not to proceed what alternative arrangements are now being sought.

### Response:

Betchwood Vale Academy is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) under the Special Free Schools Programme. In October 2023 the Department for Education advised the Council that the new school's realistic year of opening (RYO) was delayed for a third time to 2026/27. Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) issued the Planning Decision Notice in October 2023 seven months after the Committee decision in March 2023, despite the application not being called in by Secretary of State for Environment. The Section 106 agreement should have been resolved in June/July but didn't conclude until late October. This meant that the ecology window for birds and reptiles was missed for early commencement of works in Spring 2024.

In early December 2023 DfE advised SCC of pre-action protocol (PAP) notification in relation to a prospective judicial review challenging MVDC Planning and Regulatory Committee's decision to grant planning permission for Betchwood Vale Academy with associated access, offsite highway works, car parking, external landscaping, outdoor sports and play space provision and ancillary works. The PAP was addressed to MVDC to respond to, however as an identified interested party DfE's legal department was also served a copy. MVDC issued a robust response to the pre-action letter in mid-December setting out that the District Council would not consent to a quashing of the Decision and the intention to contest any claim lodged.

SCC was advised by DfE in early March 2024 that Mole Valley had taken the decision not to defend the Judicial Review and wished to commence negotiations with DfE's Legal Counsel to agree to the quashing of the planning decision. DfE confirmed last week that they had received no confirmation of a request being received by the Court.

Until the Court receives an application to quash the decision by MVDC and until the Court allows the application and the process concludes to give legal effect to the Order, the Judicial Review remains live. Furthermore, if the Order is granted, it is to quash the decision and not the application. DfE have been informed by MVDC that if a quashing order goes ahead, the existing application will go back to the planning and regulatory committee in August/September, with the intention of removing the grounds for the Judicial Review by remedying alleged administrative errors and reconfirm the original decision, subject to any further material information. The Department is committed to the project/school and fully expect the positive planning decision to be reconfirmed by the LPA once a new committee date is tabled. At that point confirmation of date of delivery will be determined.

Question submitted by Cllr Jonathan Essex

- 3) A planning application has been submitted by Surrey County Council to Surrey County Council to relocate the Reigate Valley College pupil referral unit in Reigate to the site previously used for adult social care at Park Hall. The planning application Statement of Community Consultation states that, “A detailed site search to that end has been carried out and that this search has identified the Park Hall site in Reigate as the only viable option to deliver the project within the target timescales in the right area.” Please can this detailed site search and subsequent evaluation of alternatives be publicly shared?

**Response:**

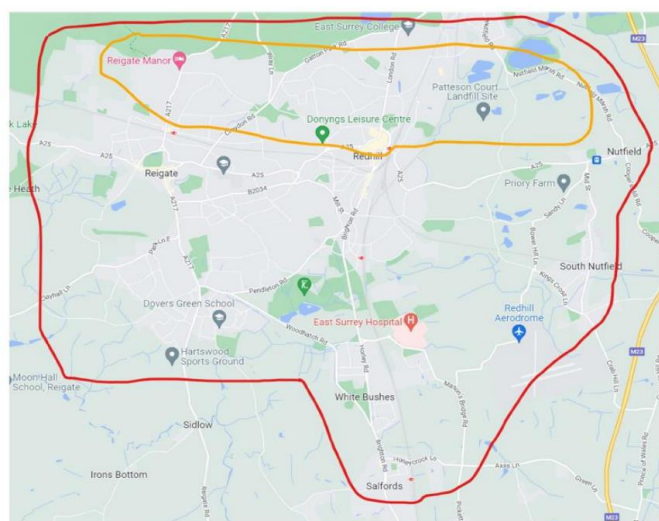
This query is the subject of a resolved Information request (ref: 7667825)

Reigate Valley College’s current facilities are located over three sites, which have been assessed as near end of life and technically severely undersized to provide the facilities and curriculum requirement for statutory alternative provision for a total of 72 pupils.

None of the school land or adjacent land to the current provision used by Reigate Valley College at Sidlow bridge has been disposed of by Surrey County Council (SCC).

Vail Williams (SCC’s appointed Planning Consultants) was commissioned to undertake an independent land search to locate a new permanent site on which to amalgamate the current three separate campus locations for Reigate Valley College as set out on a plan (below) to a target suitable area, rather than simply by distance (radius).

The target zone was identified with the red line on the plan, with an ‘ideal’ zone highlighted by the orange line considered by Inclusive Education Trust and SCC as appropriately sited to utilise the Trust’s existing facilities to meet local children’s need within the existing catchment area. It was not possible to allocate a site within the orange area, but the proposed site is a short distance away within the target area.



Four potentially suitable SCC owned sites were addressed against the defined criteria for Reigate Valley College. These are set out in the table below. Most of these sites were discounted on grounds of current type and use (i.e., commercial uses), timescales, or planning designation.

## ITEM 4 – ANNEX 1

OPTION	Plan Description	Location	Status Quo
<b>ORIGINAL PROPOSAL</b>	Co-location on existing asset occupied by Reigate Valley College	Sidlow Bridge Campus RH2 8PP Allingham Road Campus RH2 8HX Phoenix Centre Campus RH1 2HY	Option dismissed as all sites technically too small to meet Building Bulletin 104 requirements for Alternative Provision. Planned disposal of existing assets generates capital receipts to achieve funding against the overall budget allocation by Cabinet.
<b>1</b>	Co-location at Park Hall	RH2 9LH. RIBA Stage 1 completed January 2022.	Confirmed as technically and financially viable option within the available budget, as no additional acquisition costs.
<b>2</b>	Co-location at Colebrook North	RH1 2BL Redhill	Option dismissed due to Trust's Education Safeguarding concerns in terms of proximity to Carrington School.
<b>3</b>	Split site option	Phoenix Centre Campus RH1 2HY and Another Site (site yet to be determined)	Option dismissed as not financially viable for Inclusive Education Trust to continue to operate across split sites. Phoenix Centre has significant condition issues. Would require substantial increase to pupil places to provide economies of scale. Approach not aligned with SCC's adopted Alternative Curriculum Pathways and Reintegration Support Strategy.
<b>4</b>	St Alban's Road	RH2 9LN	Option dismissed as lease renegotiations unlikely to be resolved in time to realise target delivery and use timescales.

Under Department for Education (DfE) policy for making significant changes to open academies, the transfer of an open academy to another site must be assessed against the affect to other catchment areas. If a change to the catchment is necessary, and the academy trust needs to vary determined admission arrangements, it must request a variation to its admission arrangements. The Regional Director or the Secretary of State will determine whether the change to the catchment area is necessary and should be approved.

Where the main entrance of the proposed new site for an open academy would be more than 2 miles from the main entrance of the current school site, a full business case is required. Planning and budget certainty is required for a Trust to submit a full business case to the Secretary of State for Education. Given the Inclusive Education Trust's existing facilities are in Redhill and Reigate, Tandridge and Mole Valley were excluded on this basis.

SCC's Corporate Asset Panel approved the decision to allocate the Park Hall site, which is a Council owned asset to the Alternative Provision Capital Programme on 27 September 2022 specifically for the use of co-locating and relocating Reigate Valley College. The Council's decision was based on an internal assessment and confirmed that no other Service need applied, hence it was deemed suitable and available for the relocation and rebuild of Reigate Valley College.

The agreed decision noted at Asset Strategy Board on 13 October 2022 remained an officer recommendation, noting there is delegated authority (Standing Order LA 12 - written notice of proposed development of land vested in the Council) that enables assets to be recycled. A Cabinet decision would have only been required if the Park Hall site had been subject to a formal surplus declaration which was not the case in this instance.

**Question submitted by Cllr Jonathan Essex**

- 4) I have been contacted by two parents of SEND children in Surrey placed in alternative provision by Surrey County Council. In both cases, which are with different schools, the young person has been off-rolled by the school, but Surrey County Council still pay full provision by the school, although no actual education is being provided. Why is that the case and what can be done to address this?

**Response:**

If a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) is awaiting a specialist or different placement, or if they are unable to attend school for medical reasons (physical or mental health), it is not unusual for alternative provision to be put into place. If the child has a current placement at a school, the local authority will seek to maintain that placement, and work with the setting to ensure the alternative arrangements are suitable. We also require the school to continue to oversee and have responsibility for safeguarding the young person. In these examples the school would continue to receive funding for the child and would use that funding to pay for the alternative provision.

Maintained schools are not able to take a student 'off roll' other than in the case of a permanent exclusion; if the young person has a placement at another school; or if the parent or carer has indicated they wish to home educate the child. Independent schools do not have to comply with the same requirements in relation to school placements. We would need to investigate the specifics of the cases being referenced to understand the context of the 'off rolling', and the reason funding had not ceased to the schools.

If the names of the young people can be shared with Liz Bone (SEND County Service Planning and Performance Leader), we will be able to investigate the specific circumstances of these cases.

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**CABINET - 25 June 2024****CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE SELECT COMMITTEE**

Item under consideration: Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFLL) additional budget allocation – Prevention activities

**Recommendations:**

- 1) The Select Committee endorses the following:
  - **£4.84m** spending on prevention work proposed by CFLL;
  - **£0.05m** of one-off funding to support the expansion of the current pilot, where providers of SEND Play and Leisure or Overnight Respite groups would allow parents and carers who struggle to recruit Personal Assistants for respite to fund a session or place using their personal allowances;
  - **£0.05m** one-off funding to support the implementation and roll out of the Surrey Foster Carer Charter.
  
- 2) It also welcomes the Service's proposed **£1.8m** spend on social worker recruitment and retention, with the proviso that special measures are put in place to ensure that social workers recruited from overseas for front line roles are retained in those roles, and the effectiveness of these measures is reviewed six months after recruitment and reported back to Select Committee by the end of April 2025.
  
- 3) The Committee supports the Service's **£653,105** proposals for additional support in schools for neurodiverse children, and makes the following recommendations to demonstrate and reinforce SCC's commitment that no one is left behind:
  - a) To better understand where the need is and why, by the end of November 2024 the Service undertakes research to identify where the greatest presentation of neurodiversity need exists in the county and what the contributory factors are.
  - b) The offer for the Whole School Autism Friendly Reviews and the Schools Inclusion for Autism Initiatives is underpinned by the offer of implementation support to take the pressure off the schools, with **£0.3m** allocated to provide such implementation activity in schools which are struggling to cope. It will be for the Service to ascertain which schools would require this to enable them to take up the offer.
  
- 4) The Committee asks that, on completion of the co-production programme's research, a written report is produced to outline the strategy for developing and delivering integrated play and leisure across Surrey. The report should detail what integrated play will be delivered by whom, to whom, where, and by when. It should also address how interaction with voluntary sector providers will work, along with an assessment of the strategy's anticipated impact, by comparison with existing provision, and how the transition will be achieved. It should also

identify where integrated play will not meet the needs of children with additional needs and disabilities, and how it is anticipated these needs will be met.

- 5) Including £0.5m that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision (which the Committee reserves judgement on until it learns the outcome of recommendation 4), the above initiatives cost a total of £8,196,227. The Committee understands up to £8.3 million may be available to support prevention objectives in Children's Services, which potentially leaves £103,773.

Thus, the Committee recommends that all hours of SEND play and leisure provided in 2022/23 are restored in 2024/25. It has been indicated that this will now require more than the £370,000 uplift originally advised by the Service and championed by the Select Committee. It recommends using what remains of the £8.3m to ensure that the objective of the Select Committee as originally intended is achieved – i.e. restoration of the hours of SEND play and leisure in 24/25 to 22/23 levels. If this is not sufficient to restore 2022/23 hours, it recommends the necessary funding is taken from the **£0.5m** that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision.

**Fiona Davidson**

**Chairman - Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee**

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#### **Cabinet Response:**

- 1) Cabinet thanks the Select Committee for its endorsement of the allocation of £0.05m to support the extension of the current pilot being delivered in partnership with one of SCC's main providers of short play and leisure short breaks. The initial pilot phase has been positive, and this funding will support roll-out with other providers, creating more valuable opportunities for eligible children and their families. For clarity, it is important to note that the scope of the pilot and planned expansion does not cover overnight respite provision, as mentioned by the Select Committee, with a focus instead on play and leisure schemes.

Cabinet also thanks the Select Committee for endorsing the one-off allocation of £0.05m to support the implementation and roll-out of the Foster Carers' charter. This will enable additional capacity and activity within the fostering service to publicise the Charter, embed it within day-to-day practice and enable measurement and evaluation of its effectiveness. This will be alongside ongoing involvement of the community of foster carers and:

- Additional communication and implementation activity across the wider children's services workforce and corporate parents.
- Development of learning opportunities and improved awareness for social work staff about the fostering role.
- Reporting and action planning from follow up activity with foster carers linked to the Charter's commitments.

- Development of an integrated suite of measures in a dashboard (pulling together existing and identifying new measures) that contribute to evaluating how well the Charter is working in practice.
- Working with the Surrey County Fostering Association to consider how a 'maturity model' will be defined and measured, linked to the Charter.
- Support with reporting to governance forums on progress of the implementation plan, and delivery against the Charter' commitments.

Work in this area will also be linked with the ongoing foster carers portal project, which will be a key delivery vehicle to enable improved effectiveness against the Charter's commitments.

**Cabinet agrees these proposals.**

- 2) The recommendation for additional investment into recruitment and retention for social workers was prepared by the service and reflects the work undertaken via the Recruitment, Retention and Culture Board. This board has explored a wide range of options and used information from staff feedback, exit interviews, stay interviews and from national research and neighbouring local authorities related to best practice for recruitment and retention. The proposals outlined would assist in stabilising the social work service by securing more permanent staff.

Cabinet notes the Select Committee's endorsement of the proposals to:

- Invest in overseas social work recruitment.
- Increase the number of practice supervisors to support a planned increase in recruitment of newly qualified social workers (NQSW) for Sept 2024 and January 2025 intakes.
- Implement a Market Supplement for additional social workers.

**Cabinet does not agree** with these proposals as the priority for additional investment into the directorate has been for early intervention and prevention work. Cabinet recognises that the service remains with the current challenges related to social worker recruitment; this is a risk to service delivery and accordingly the Cabinet Member will monitor the position with the service closely.

- 3)
  - a) The Commissioning for Transformation Team will be undertaking a data deep dive to ascertain the geographical spread of incidence of neuro-diversity as a primary need across the county. We will use existing data to understand and identify any links with disadvantage or deprivation. This information can be used to ensure that support is targeted appropriately. This work will be completed by the end of November 2024.
  - b) The Commissioning for Transformation Team working alongside the SEND Team, will design and model a funding stream – in collaboration with partners, ATLAS, Family Voice Surrey, school leaders and the All Age Autism Team to support schools to access the identified initiatives and then embed learning and improved practice.

- 4) Since launching in February 2024, with the support of innovation funding from the Department for Education, the short breaks co-production programme has been through a period of discovery with parents and carers of children with disabilities. This has highlighted a range of opportunities for development and improvement within SCC-funded short breaks and the wider system of support for children with disabilities, where we are beginning to develop and test prototypes with families. We are also in the detailed planning stages of a broader programme of work, informed by the co-production activity, that aims to drive equity and inclusion, as well as communication and quality. This programme of work will be wide ranging and will consider the key stages of commissioning and accessing play and leisure schemes, including eligibility and booking processes. We intend to work closely with families on this work and would welcome the input of the Select Committee. We would be happy to bring back a report outlining the future strategy in due course.
- 5) Following confirmation of an increased budget for Play and Leisure short breaks to CFLL Commissioning in early March 2024, the team has rapidly worked through the governance and legal processes required to allocate the funding to providers and collaborated with provider partners to develop proposals for additional short breaks provision for implementation in year. As a result of this work, the team has now confirmed that this funding is expected to create 19,350 additional hours of play and leisure short breaks. This brings the total estimated hours of play and leisure provision commissioned in 2024/25 to over 99,000, compared to around 92,000 in 2022/23. As previously highlighted to the Select Committee, this increased capacity also includes increased 1-to-1 provision for children with the most complex needs, aligning to the shifting profile of need of children accessing the service.

For many children with additional needs and disabilities, the opportunity to participate locally alongside their peers and maximise their sense of belonging in Surrey's communities will contribute to positive long-term outcomes. Moving forwards, we will be striving to ensure a short breaks programme that is focussed on maximising independence, inclusion and belonging, whatever that might look like for the individual children who access our services. Alongside this, we appreciate that there will be an ongoing need to commission a range of complementary specialist services that are accessible to those with the most complex needs, forming a pathway of support, but, even here, we want to ensure that inclusion is a priority. The development of new, more inclusive options is primarily about making the right investments now to support the best possible long-term outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

Whilst the additional investment of £370k in 2024/25 has increased capacity relative to 2022/23 levels, it will be important to consider the level of ongoing funding for short breaks as part of budget setting for 2025/26, given the likely end of the additional Short Breaks Innovation Grant from the DfE in March 2025. If we were to respond to the recommendation of the Select Committee and secure ongoing play and leisure capacity equivalent to 2022/23 for Surrey's historical "All Additional Needs & Disabilities" schemes at current unit costs, this would require an estimated additional investment of £260k. Equally, if SCC wishes to sustain

capacity at 2024/25 levels, this would require allocation of £430k in 2024/25. This will need careful consideration, alongside other statutory calls on our budgets for children and families, as we prepare for 2025/26.

**Clare Curran**  
**Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning**  
**25 June 2024**

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## **CABINET - 25 June 2024 (Part 1 report)**

### **CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE**

Item under consideration: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (AP) CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIST SUFFICIENCY TO 2031/32

#### **Recommendations:**

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee is not assured that evidence has been provided to justify the SEND Capital Programme proposals from the perspective of meeting the needs of children and young people (CYP), in addition to managing the annual Non-maintained Independent school placement and Home to School Transport revenue costs out to 2031/32.

The Select Committee recommends that the Cabinet defers a decision on these proposals until the following additional information, consequences and impacts can be assessed:

1. The proposals should be accompanied by a statement of CYP education provision **needs** (by specific provision type – ASD, SEMH specialist school vs. mainstream SEN unit, etc. and by quadrant) out to 2027/28 and 2031/32. Information on the number of school places to be provided does not provide assurance since needs are very specific.
2. Based on this projection, and the SEND Capital Programme proposals, the estimated impact on the CFLLC revenue budget for (a) Non-Maintained Independent school places, and (b) Home to School Travel Assistance (H2STA), should be assessed per annum out to 2028/28 and 2031/32 – and compared to the one-off cost savings of the Capital Programme proposals at £45m.
3. The proposed new projects to provide 230 new school places do not match the profile of the 317 places (and 140 reprovided places) withdrawn, and there is no guarantee that the sponsors of these places will deliver. Evidence should be provided of why the new proposed places substitute for the withdrawn places. The proposed new SEMH Special Free School due to provide 150 places by August 2028 is of particular concern given the steeply rising demand for SEMH specialist provision. (More detail in part 2 report)
4. Assurance is needed on how reprovided places are impacted by projects being withdrawn will be sustained, or whether they will also be lost by 2027/28.
5. The proposals indicate that the South East quadrant would be disproportionately adversely affected, with a majority of the 317 places that are proposed to no longer be created in the SE. A high proportion of the 230 proposed new places are reliant on an SEMH specialist free school considered the highest risk for non-

delivery. Further analysis and assurance of how this disparity would be addressed should be provided. (More detail in part 2 report)

6. The contingency plans for the 500 additional new Special Free School places (which will provide c. 9% of SCC's anticipated 5,791 school places by 2030/31) in the event of non-delivery by the DfE should be provided.
7. Based on projections assuming current trends, the Committee was informed that under the new programme there could be a shortfall of 660 specialist places in the state-maintained sector by 2031/32. The ongoing revenue cost of this shortfall should be assessed and compared with the likely capital cost of providing these places.
8. See part 2 report.

**Fiona Davidson, Chair - Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee**

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**Cabinet Response:**

**Engagement with the CFLLC Select Committee**

The requirement for engagement with the CFLLC Select Committee was requested by Scrutiny on 30 May 2024. The draft Cabinet reports were issued by the Scrutiny Officer on 31 May, following agreement by the Legal Monitoring Officer to proceed.

In the absence of the CFLLC Select Committee Chair, and with agreement from the Vice-Chair, a briefing with officers and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning was arranged for Tuesday 4 June. The briefing, which was confirmed as constitutionally formal scrutiny, gave committee members the opportunity to ask questions about the draft Part 1 and Part 2 Cabinet Reports on proposed changes to the scope of the SEND Capital Programme and profile of funding for the AP Capital Programme within budget allocations reaffirmed by Full Council in February 2024 budget setting.

After the informal briefing had concluded, thirteen questions were raised by the Vice-Chair with the Scrutiny Officer seeking written clarification on specific aspects of the draft reports and wider context that had been discussed in the briefing. Detailed responses were provided by officers in writing to the committee members on Friday 7 June.

It will be important for these written responses to be taken into consideration in the CFLLC Select Committee's recommendations to Cabinet.

**Select Committee recommendation that Cabinet defers the decision on proposals to beyond Tuesday 25 June**

Agreement to proceed to a decision on 25 June was confirmed by Surrey's Leader and Members at the Cabinet Agenda Planning Meeting on Monday 3 June. This was



because of the significant reputational and financial risk that deferral would create for Surrey County Council:

The call-in period for a planned 25 June decision ends on 2 July, allowing schools, Trusts, and families of children with additional needs and disabilities who are likely to be impacted by Cabinet's decision to be updated individually, and proactive communications to be issued well before the end of the summer term on 23 July.

A delay to a Cabinet decision at the end of July would conclude the calling-in period on 30 July, meaning that schools and Trusts have another 6 weeks to wait before being updated. Deferral to 23 July increases the risk of reputational damage, breakdown in relationships with schools/Trusts, families and increased legal challenge (and liabilities) at First Tier SEND Tribunal to the Council.

The requirement for the programmes' financial certainty under the Financial Regulations require confirmation of the Cabinet decision on 25 June before proceeding with planning submissions, consultation and engagement activities for statutory significant changes for schools, legal agreements and financial decisions on individual project budgets for around 16 committed and planned SEND and AP projects. Deferral to 23 July has already been analysed and the expected impact of this would push committed projects' programmes out beyond target completion dates, delaying delivery and availability of around 133 places in 2025/26.

As the SEND and AP Capital Programmes have over 20 live committed projects, deferral to a 23 July decision will increase known abortive costs from £1.9m projected to end of June to over £2.3m by end of July, further reducing capacity within already constrained budget allocations.

**Select Committee recommendation that proposals should be accompanied by a statement of 'CYP education provision needs'**

The follow-up briefing issued on Friday 7 June referred committee members to Surrey County Council's published School Organisation Plan (2022-2032) and Children and Young People with Additional Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Plan 2022-2030. These set out the Council's approach for providing education close to home by local providers, who can successfully support all children and young people to live, learn and grow up locally to achieve their full potential.

Surrey County Council's published School Organisation Plan (2022-2032) and Children and Young People with Additional Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Plan 2022-2030 set out the Council's approach for providing education close to home by local providers, who can successfully support all children and young people to live, learn and grow up locally to achieve their full potential.

The Council's ten-year sufficiency projections for specialist provision include the range of educational provision for Surrey resident pupils aged 4-19 years with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), from SEN Units or Resourced Provision attached to state-maintained mainstream schools, state-maintained specialist schools, state-maintained alternative provision, FE Colleges, and non-maintained or specialist independent settings. This uses the same basic

demographic projections as for mainstream place planning and these are underpinned by the same birth, population and housing data.

Sufficiency and place planning trends for the *Edge-ucate SEN* data model developed in collaboration with and updated annually by Edge Analytics are also determined using information from the national School Census and annual SEN2 returns alongside the Council's pupil level information. Data includes all existing children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans and their primary need, where they live, and type, designation and location of education provision attended. This data is fed into annual projections each summer and the data models are updated annually to reflect actual versus projected need. The growth from committed SEND and AP capital projects which have been through the appropriate legal agreements is included in the model's place data.

Projections accounting for proposed decisions by Cabinet have been adjusted and analysed, assuming current commissioning trends and current maintained specialist school and mainstream school specialist 'centre' designations. The Council's committed capital investment of £260m, and the remaining £189m for SEND and AP budget allocations for 2024/25 to 2027/28 reaffirmed in February 2024 budget setting enables expansion of Surrey's state-maintained specialist education estate to just over 5,760 place capacity overall by 2031/32. This is only one part of a broader strategy and collective responsibility to create a continuum of provision in collaboration with schools, Academy Trusts and the wider partnership to best meet local need in the long term.

### North East Surrey: Specialist Schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	179	186	225	267	303	326	347	352	348	344	335
Places available	0	47	77	119	153	180	197	200	200	200	200
Shortage/surplus (no)	-179	-139	-148	-148	-150	-146	-150	-152	-148	-144	-135
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-75%	-66%	-56%	-49%	-45%	-43%	-43%	-43%	-42%	-40%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at Complex ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	141	165	179	185	195	202	205	203	201	201	197
Places available	141	204	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205
Shortage/surplus (no)	0	39	26	20	10	3	0	2	4	4	8
Shortage/surplus (%)	0%	19%	13%	10%	5%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Notes	Excludes proposed 60 place permanent expansion via Satellite Site at Manor Mead School (Virginia Water), where legal agreements are still pending.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	234	270	305	315	324	337	336	326	317	310	299
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-234	-270	-305	-315	-324	-337	-336	-326	-317	-310	-299
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SEMH designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	84	93	107	126	147	157	165	161	155	148	141
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-84	-93	-107	-126	-147	-157	-165	-161	-155	-148	-141
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLD/PMLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	129	134	166	186	216	234	254	253	253	253	251
Places available	231	173	177	206	206	231	231	231	231	231	231
Shortage/surplus (no)	102	39	11	20	-10	-3	-23	-22	-22	-22	-20
Shortage/surplus (%)	44%	23%	6%	10%	-5%	-1%	-9%	-9%	-9%	-9%	-8%

### North East Surrey: SEN Units/ Specialist Resourced Provision ('Centres') in mainstream schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	117	119	118	125	125	126	127	130	125	123	122
Places available	194	142	176	203	228	232	234	236	236	236	236
Shortage/surplus (no)	77	23	58	78	103	106	107	106	111	113	114
Shortage/surplus (%)	40%	16%	33%	39%	45%	46%	46%	45%	47%	48%	48%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at HI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	12	10	11	14	12	11	13	14	15	16	16
Places available	33	19	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Shortage/surplus (no)	21	9	19	16	18	19	17	16	15	14	14
Shortage/surplus (%)	64%	50%	65%	54%	59%	62%	58%	54%	51%	48%	46%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	37	40	42	42	42	42	38	37	36	35	35
Places available	32	17	17	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Shortage/surplus (no)	-5	-23	-25	-25	-26	-26	-22	-21	-20	-19	-19
Shortage/surplus (%)	-14%	-57%	-60%	-60%	-62%	-62%	-58%	-57%	-55%	-54%	-54%
Notes	Excludes new mainstream specialist resourced provision, proposed for inclusion in SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLCN designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	65	70	77	80	76	79	79	75	72	71	69
Places available	65	72	81	81	81	79	79	78	75	75	75
Shortage/surplus (no)	0	2	4	1	5	0	0	3	3	4	6
Shortage/surplus (%)	0%	3%	5%	2%	6%	0%	0%	3%	4%	5%	8%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at VI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	3	8	10	12	11	10	7	7	6	6	7
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-3	-8	-10	-12	-11	-10	-7	-7	-6	-6	-7
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

### North West Surrey: Specialist Schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	93	96	120	153	188	211	219	229	235	231	231
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-93	-96	-120	-153	-188	-211	-219	-229	-235	-231	-231
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at Complex ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	200	236	257	274	283	295	303	303	309	312	313
Places available	216	243	270	288	252	261	270	270	270	270	270
Shortage/surplus (no)	16	7	13	14	-31	-34	-33	-33	-39	-42	-43
Shortage/surplus (%)	7%	3%	5%	5%	-11%	-12%	-11%	-11%	-12%	-13%	-14%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	207	238	264	284	297	324	323	333	338	330	327
Places available	473	513	540	553	551	551	542	542	542	542	542
Shortage/surplus (no)	266	275	276	269	254	227	219	209	204	212	215
Shortage/surplus (%)	56%	54%	51%	49%	46%	41%	40%	39%	38%	39%	40%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SEMH designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	64	70	75	78	84	88	84	79	76	70	64
Places available	82	76	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Shortage/surplus (no)	18	6	7	4	-2	-6	-2	3	6	12	18
Shortage/surplus (%)	22%	7%	8%	5%	-3%	-7%	-2%	4%	7%	15%	22%
Notes	Excludes new 170 place DfE Special Free School, Frimley Oak Academy due to open in 2027/ 2028, where legal agreements are pending.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLD/PMLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	162	154	174	195	214	230	241	248	248	242	239
Places available	125	135	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
Shortage/surplus (no)	-37	-19	-34	-55	-74	-90	-101	-108	-108	-102	-99
Shortage/surplus (%)	-23%	-12%	-20%	-28%	-35%	-39%	-42%	-44%	-43%	-42%	-41%

### North West Surrey: SEN Units/ Specialist Resourced Provision ('Centres') in mainstream schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	60	69	75	76	81	84	84	86	87	88	86
Places available	59	60	54	60	66	72	78	78	78	78	78
Shortage/surplus (no)	-1	-9	-21	-16	-15	-12	-6	-8	-9	-10	-8
Shortage/surplus (%)	-2%	-13%	-28%	-21%	-18%	-14%	-8%	-10%	-10%	-11%	-10%
Notes	Excludes new mainstream specialist resourced provision, proposed for inclusion in SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at HI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	7	6	8	9	8	9	10	9	10	11	11
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-7	-6	-8	-9	-8	-9	-10	-9	-10	-11	-11
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	36	38	41	43	43	42	40	38	36	36	36
Places available	44	40	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Shortage/surplus (no)	8	2	3	1	1	2	4	6	8	8	8
Shortage/surplus (%)	18%	4%	7%	2%	2%	6%	9%	14%	17%	19%	19%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLCN designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	39	45	48	48	53	54	54	54	53	54	53
Places available	56	45	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
Shortage/surplus (no)	17	0	16	16	11	10	10	10	11	10	11
Shortage/surplus (%)	30%	-1%	25%	25%	17%	16%	16%	16%	17%	15%	18%

Pupils/students aged 4-16 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at VI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	9	11	12	15	15	14	13	13	11	10	10
Places available	19	17	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Shortage/surplus (no)	10	6	15	12	12	13	14	14	16	17	17
Shortage/surplus (%)	53%	36%	56%	45%	44%	49%	51%	50%	60%	64%	64%

## South East Surrey: Specialist Schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	200	221	265	318	373	410	431	430	426	407	390
Places available	288	188	198	216	281	382	433	470	490	500	500
Shortage/surplus (no)	88	-33	-67	-102	-92	-28	2	40	64	93	110
Shortage/surplus (%)	31%	-15%	-25%	-32%	-25%	-7%	1%	8%	13%	19%	22%
Notes	Excludes proposed withdrawal of projects from SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at Complex ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	171	198	208	218	221	222	219	220	218	214	213
Places available	70	215	223	236	245	246	246	245	245	245	245
Shortage/surplus (no)	-101	17	15	18	24	24	27	25	27	31	32
Shortage/surplus (%)	-59%	8%	7%	8%	10%	10%	11%	10%	11%	13%	13%
Notes	Excludes proposed 21 place expansion at Brooklands School, where legal agreements are still pending.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	262	284	305	322	343	345	357	366	369	364	359
Places available	319	331	346	356	363	371	365	365	365	365	365
Shortage/surplus (no)	57	47	41	34	20	26	8	-1	-4	1	6
Shortage/surplus (%)	18%	14%	12%	10%	5%	7%	2%	0%	-1%	0%	2%
Notes	Excludes proposed project withdrawal from SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SEMH designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	79	90	123	154	180	193	208	201	194	182	174
Places available	92	61	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Shortage/surplus (no)	13	-29	-41	-72	-98	-111	-126	-119	-112	-100	-92
Shortage/surplus (%)	14%	-33%	-33%	-47%	-55%	-58%	-61%	-59%	-58%	-55%	-53%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLD/PMLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	156	155	170	191	199	212	221	215	217	213	213
Places available	267	263	266	266	265	264	264	264	264	264	264
Shortage/surplus (no)	111	108	96	75	66	52	43	49	47	51	51
Shortage/surplus (%)	42%	41%	36%	28%	25%	20%	16%	18%	18%	19%	19%
Notes	Excludes proposed 40 place expansion of Woodlands School where legal agreements are pending.										

## South East Surrey: SEN Units/ Specialist Resourced Provision ('Centres') in mainstream schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	55	58	61	62	63	62	61	59	58	57	57
Places available	60	77	92	100	104	104	104	104	104	104	104
Shortage/surplus (no)	5	19	31	38	41	42	43	45	46	47	47
Shortage/surplus (%)	8%	24%	34%	38%	40%	41%	42%	43%	44%	45%	45%
Notes	Excludes new mainstream specialist resourced provision, proposed for inclusion in SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at HI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	2	3	3	6	4	2	3	3	3	2	2
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-2	-3	-3	-6	-4	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-2
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	21	25	31	31	33	32	31	30	28	28	27
Places available	30	27	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Shortage/surplus (no)	9	2	-1	-1	-3	-2	-1	0	2	2	3
Shortage/surplus (%)	30%	8%	-2%	-3%	-8%	-6%	-4%	1%	5%	8%	9%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLCN designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	87	106	116	122	127	134	134	134	137	138	134
Places available	96	103	118	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Shortage/surplus (no)	9	-3	2	-2	-7	-14	-14	-14	-17	-18	-14
Shortage/surplus (%)	9%	-3%	2%	-1%	-5%	-11%	-11%	-10%	-12%	-13%	-11%

Pupils/students aged 4-16 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at VI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	16	13	12	16	16	12	15	13	14	10	8
Places available	24	18	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Shortage/surplus (no)	8	5	12	8	8	12	9	11	10	14	16
Shortage/surplus (%)	33%	27%	49%	32%	33%	51%	38%	46%	42%	59%	65%

## South West Surrey: Specialist Schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	72	83	113	150	191	207	225	236	234	225	223
Places available	150	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Shortage/surplus (no)	78	81	51	14	-27	-43	-61	-72	-70	-61	-59
Shortage/surplus (%)	52%	49%	31%	8%	-14%	-21%	-27%	-31%	-30%	-27%	-26%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at Complex ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	127	128	131	135	148	150	149	151	152	151	150
Places available	105	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
Shortage/surplus (no)	-22	-18	-21	-25	-38	-40	-39	-41	-42	-41	-40
Shortage/surplus (%)	-17%	-14%	-16%	-18%	-26%	-27%	-26%	-27%	-28%	-27%	-26%
Notes	Excludes proposed 51 place expansion at Pond Meadow School, where legal agreements are pending.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	280	318	335	359	372	394	398	400	394	393	384
Places available	258	276	290	314	329	342	348	356	356	356	356
Shortage/surplus (no)	-22	-42	-45	-45	-43	-52	-50	-44	-38	-37	-28
Shortage/surplus (%)	-8%	-13%	-14%	-12%	-12%	-13%	-13%	-11%	-10%	-9%	-7%
Notes	Excludes proposed project withdrawal from SEND Capital Programme and subject to Cabinet's decision.										

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SEMH designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	82	95	100	105	105	109	103	100	95	93	90
Places available	116	128	128	149	171	171	171	171	171	171	171
Shortage/surplus (no)	34	33	28	44	66	62	68	71	76	78	81
Shortage/surplus (%)	29%	25%	22%	29%	39%	36%	40%	41%	45%	45%	47%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLD/PMLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	139	144	191	236	283	321	354	355	352	340	336
Places available	153	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
Shortage/surplus (no)	14	11	-36	-81	-128	-166	-199	-200	-197	-185	-181
Shortage/surplus (%)	9%	7%	-19%	-34%	-45%	-52%	-56%	-56%	-56%	-54%	-54%

### South West Surrey: SEN Units/ Specialist Resourced Provision ('Centres') in mainstream schools

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at ASD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	75	82	83	85	87	87	87	85	85	86	85
Places available	84	87	89	94	99	104	109	114	114	114	114
Shortage/surplus (no)	9	5	6	9	12	17	22	29	29	28	29
Shortage/surplus (%)	11%	6%	6%	10%	12%	16%	21%	25%	26%	25%	25%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at HI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	8	11	13	14	13	16	17	18	18	19	20
Places available	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Shortage/surplus (no)	7	4	2	1	2	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4	-5
Shortage/surplus (%)	47%	28%	16%	7%	12%	-6%	-13%	-17%	-15%	-19%	-23%



Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at MLD designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	28	28	31	32	31	32	31	30	29	29	29
Places available	28	24	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Shortage/surplus (no)	0	-4	-5	-6	-5	-6	-5	-4	-3	-3	-3
Shortage/surplus (%)	0%	-13%	-16%	-18%	-16%	-19%	-15%	-12%	-11%	-10%	-10%

Pupils/students aged 4-19 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at SLCN designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	48	59	58	60	63	61	63	66	65	65	66
Places available	68	57	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Shortage/surplus (no)	20	-2	3	1	-2	0	-2	-5	-4	-4	-5
Shortage/surplus (%)	29%	-3%	5%	1%	-3%	0%	-4%	-7%	-6%	-6%	-8%

Pupils/students aged 4-16 years in Reception to Year 14 projected to require a place at VI designated provision

Academic Year	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Pupil projections (NCY R-14)	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	4	3	4
Places available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shortage/surplus (no)	-5	-5	-5	-6	-6	-6	-5	-5	-4	-3	-4
Shortage/surplus (%)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%

## Meeting Surrey Children's Needs

As is the case nationally and detailed above, children and young people aged 4-19 years with EHCPs who live in Surrey attend a broad range of educational provision. Pages 42-53 of the Council's Children and Young People with Additional Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Plan 2022-2030 sets out the Commissioning Authority's Sufficiency Action Plan. This clarifies the planned activity and associated timescales to ensure that the Council's Sufficiency Plan and intended outcomes are achieved with partners, concurrently to the SEND and AP Capital Programmes delivery of additional capacity within finite capital budget allocations.

The average unit cost difference between state-maintained provision and non-maintained/independent sector provision is £30k per pupil per year. The average unit cost for assisted travel support is £8,300 per pupil, per year.

The committee's assumption is that the projected shortfall would require all children and young people to be diverted to the independent sector, and that all children would meet the eligibility criteria for Council funded travel support. If that was the case then the impact would be as follows:

## Estimated Impact on 'CFLLC Revenue Budget'

The average unit cost difference between state-maintained provision and non-maintained/ independent sector provision is £30k per pupil per year. The average unit cost for assisted travel support is £8,300 per pupil, per year. The committee's assumption is that projected shortfall per quadrant would require all children and young people to be diverted to the independent sector, and that all children would meet the eligibility criteria for Council funded travel support. If that was the case then Table 1 sets out the assumed impact on Surrey Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block would be as follows:

**Table 1: Assumed impact on Surrey Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block**

<b>Quadrant</b>	<b>Projected shortfall of Specialist Provision 2024/25 to 2032/33</b>	<b>Additional cost to DSG HNB (at £30k per pupil place per year)</b>	<b>Additional cost to SEND Transport Budget (at £8,300 per pupil per year)</b>
North East	715	£21.4m	£6m
North West	848	£25.4m	£7m
South East	255	£7.7m	£2.1m
South West	388	£11.6m	£3.2m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>£66.1m</b>	<b>£18.3m</b>

This approach is not sustainable and does not reflect the wider partnership’s flex in the approach to best meet local need in the long term to ensure our children feel more included, to transition successfully into adulthood, and access high quality education closer to home. There are different options to meet the projected shortfall. Planned for 2025/26, Surrey’s Commissioning Authority in collaboration with the Education Place Planning team will commence engagement with mainstream schools and Trusts to explore opportunities for increasing specialist provision where falling birth rates, sustained lower admissions or planned reduction of PAN could create additional inclusion opportunities within existing provision. The review of current designations of existing specialist schools and specialist ‘centres’ will also ascertain where formal redesignation may be required to better meet the needs of pupils with particular more complex primary needs, within existing estate capacity. This activity is independent of the SEND and AP Capital Programmes.

**Proposed changing scope of the SEND Capital Programme**

The rationale for the change of scope is set out in the additional detailed briefing provided by officers in writing to the committee members on Friday 7 June. Table 2 shows the additional place availability to 2031/32 which can be created through approved capital investment and delivery between 2019/20 and 2027/28. As set out previously, annual additional place availability differs from annual built places. This is because once construction projects have been completed and new provision is handed over, schools and Trusts need to build their staffing and resource capacity against planned pupil place growth and funding models agreed with the Commissioning Authority and DfE.

Entirely new schools typically grow to full capacity over a 5-year period, whereas small to medium expansions of existing provision typically achieve capacity in 2-4 years.

**Table 2: Additional Annual Place Availability for Allocation by Children’s needs 2019/20-2031/32**

<b>KEY</b>	
<b>Code</b>	<b>School Designation</b>
AP	Alternative Provision School
ASD	Autism/ Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Access	Mainstream School Access Adaptions
MLD/SpLD	Moderate/Specific Learning Difficulties
SEMH	Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
S/PMLD	Severe/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
VI	Visual Impairment

<b>Needs</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2025/2026</b>	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>2027/2028</b>	<b>2028/2029</b>	<b>2029/2030</b>	<b>2030/2031</b>	<b>2031/2032</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Allocated</b>						<b>To Be Allocated</b>							
<b>AP</b>							25		16					<b>41</b>
<b>ASD</b>	24	74	180	163	126	184	176	113	128	87	54	36	46	<b>1391</b>
<b>Access</b>				1										<b>1</b>
<b>MLD</b>	20		71	67	69	43	26	22	8	4				<b>330</b>
<b>SEMH</b>			34				21	22	60	100	70	50	40	<b>397</b>
<b>SLCN</b>					1	7								<b>8</b>
<b>S/PMLD</b>	33			16		20	16	17	49	37	20	10	10	<b>2281</b>
<b>VI</b>					1	7								<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>														<b>2404</b>

Where projects are proposed to be withdrawn, existing schools will maintain their current capacity. Asset management and maintenance will continue to be met by the responsible body; the Council for LA maintained schools and Trusts for academies.

**Committee’s concern that the South East quadrant of the county would be disproportionately adversely affected**

Tables 3 to 6 set out the additional place availability that can be created through capital investment and delivery for the Commissioning Authority’s use by School Designation, aligned with proposals set out in the draft Cabinet report. Of the 2,404 additional places that can be created, the split per quadrant is set out below. Table 3 demonstrates that the South East quadrant of the county is not disproportionately adversely affected by proposed changes to scope of the SEND Capital Programme.

**Table 3: North East Surrey additional place availability by Provision Type  
2019/20-2032/33 (649 additional places)**

Provision Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032
New Specialist Free School	0	0	64	0	0	77	52	34	17	17	3	0	0
Existing Specialist School Expansion	19	0	8	34	37	9	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
New Mainstream SEN Unit	0	17	21	33	15	32	27	17	15	0	0	0	0
Existing Mainstream SEN Unit Expansion	0	0	11	6	14	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mainstream Resourced Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	8	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Access Adaptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Provision School	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 4: North West Surrey additional place availability by Provision Type  
2019/20-2031/32 (666 additional places)**

Provision Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032
New Specialist Free School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	40	30	25	15
Existing Specialist School Expansion	26	0	109	72	37	50	43	19	19	19	4	0	0
New Mainstream SEN Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	6	6	0	0
Existing Mainstream SEN Unit Expansion	0	0	0	0	6	18	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
New Mainstream Resourced Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	4	0	0	0
Mainstream Access Adaptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Provision School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0

**Table 5: South East Surrey additional place availability by Provision Type  
2019/20-2031/32 (827 additional places)**

Provision Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032
New Specialist Free School	0	0	8	45	16	16	16	0	50	96	76	61	47
Existing Specialist School Expansion	18	42	41	43	24	18	10	17	39	27	20	10	10
New Mainstream SEN Unit	0	0	0	0	10	7	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Existing Mainstream SEN Unit Expansion	0	0	0	0	8	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mainstream Resourced Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	4	0	0	0
Mainstream Access Adaptions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Provision School	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 6: South West Surrey additional place availability by Provision Type  
2019/20-2031/32 (262 additional places)**

Provision Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032
New Specialist Free School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing Specialist School Expansion	14	0	17	13	30	23	43	32	10	10	0	0	24
New Mainstream SEN Unit	0	15	6	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	0	0
Existing Mainstream SEN Unit Expansion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mainstream Resourced Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Access Adaptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative Provision School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **Committee’s concern about the steeply rising demand for SEMH designated provision**

The Council has accepted the Secretary of State for Education’s conditions for two new SEMH designated special free schools approved for Surrey. These will create a total 320 additional places for children and young people aged 11-19 years.

Projections above show that the maximum need for a total of 165 additional places in the North East of the county can be met through Frimley Oak Academy, which would be the nearest most appropriate school. Projections also show that the maximum need for a total of 126 places in the South East of the county could be met by the proposed new special free school in Banstead.

### **Committee’s lack of confidence in DfE Free School Delivery**

The Department for Education (DfE)’s Free Schools Programme was established 14 years ago under the Government’s free school policy initiative. From May 2015, usage of the term was formally extended to include new academies set up via a local authority competition. There has been no change to Government policy within the meantime.

The two legal routes for establishing a new state-maintained special school have not changed since that period:

1. [DfE Special Free School Programme Central Route](#), where following local authority application to the programme and subject to Secretary of State approval, the competitive process to identify the Trust sponsor, Pre-Opening, and delivery of the school is managed and funded by the Department. The local authority maintains liability for abnormal site development costs (typically £3m-£5m) where the approved new school site is owned by the Council. These costs have to be met within the Council’s approved capital budgets.
2. Local Authority [Special Free School Presumption Route](#), where following LA application to establish a new school and subject to Secretary of State approval, the competitive process to identify the Trust sponsor, Pre-Opening, and delivery of

the school is managed and entirely funded by the Council. These costs have to be met within the Council's approved capital budgets.

SCC strongly supports the DfE's proposed development of Betchwood Vale Academy in Dorking, Frimley Oak Academy in Frimley and the proposed new Special Free School in Banstead.

These are three of five special free schools awarded to the Council between 2018-2024 and totalling more than 500 new places, which are key delivery aspects of the Council's Special Educational Needs (SEND) Capital Programme to improve the long-term sufficiency of state-maintained special school provision that meets the needs of communities across Surrey.

**Table 3: Secretary of State for Education approved Surrey Special Free Schools**

School	Route	Realistic Year of Opening	Notes
Fox Grove Academy	DfE Central route	Delivered by DfE January 2022	Opened in temporary accommodation funded and delivered by SCC for September 2021.
Hopescourt School	LA Presumption route	2024/25	In contract and due for delivery early September 2025. The school will open in temporary accommodation in September 2024.
Betchwood Vale Academy	DfE Central route	2027/28	Sponsor identified (The Howard Partnership Trust) Delayed as a result of the live Judicial Review appeal against Mole Valey District Council as the Planning Authority, and not actions brought about by the DfE or its appointed contractor.
Frimley Oak Academy	DfE Central route	2027/28	Sponsor identified (London South East Academies Trust) in April 2024. DfE commenced initiation in June 2024.
New Special Free School	DfE Central route	2028/29	Awarded 9 May 2024. Seven Trusts have already pre-registered with DfE to submit applications by the deadline of 19 July

Department for Education High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant funding (previously Special Provision Capital Allocation Grant funding) received by the Council between 2019/20-2024/25 equates to approximately 25% of the overall SEND and AP Capital Programme costs. To that end, the Council simply could not afford to fund the £95m-£100m that the DfE is investing to deliver the four DfE Central route schools within remaining approved budget allocations for SEND and AP Capital, reaffirmed by the Council at February 2024 budget setting.

**Ongoing revenue costs of a shortfall of 660 specialist places, assuming current trends**

If all 660 needed to be allocated to the independent sector, ongoing revenue costs would be equivalent of around £35m per year.

**Clare Curran**  
**Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning**  
**25 June 2024**

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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

The actions and 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 meeting. Once an action has been completed, it will be shaded green to indicate that it will be removed from the tracker at the next meeting.

<b>KEY</b>			
	No Progress Reported	Recommendation/Action In Progress	Recommendation/Action Implemented

**Recommendations**

Meeting	Item	Recommendation	Responsible Officer / Member	Deadline	Progress Check On	Update/Response
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 7/24:</b> The Select Committee endorses the following: <b>£4.84m</b> spending on prevention work proposed by CFLL; <b>£0.05m</b> of one-off funding to support the expansion of the current pilot, where providers of SEND Play and Leisure or Overnight Respite groups would allow parents and carers who struggle to recruit Personal Assistants for respite to fund a session or	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Executive Director for Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning, Rachael Wardell	Cabinet 25 June 2024		Response published 22 June 2024: <a href="#">(Public Pack)Cabinet - 25 June 2024 - Supplementary Agenda Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 25/06/2024 14:00 (surreycc.gov.uk)</a>

Item 6

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		place using their personal allowances; <b>£0.05m</b> one-off funding to support the implementation and roll out of the Surrey Foster Carer Charter.				
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 8/24:</b> It also welcomes the Service's proposed <b>£1.8m</b> spend on social worker recruitment and retention, with the proviso that special measures are put in place to ensure that social workers recruited from overseas for front line roles are retained in those roles, and the effectiveness of these measures is reviewed six months after recruitment and reported	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Executive Director for Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning, Rachael Wardell	Cabinet 25 June 2024		Response published 22 June 2024: <a href="#">(Public Pack)Cabinet - 25 June 2024 - Supplementary Agenda Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 25/06/2024 14:00 (surreycc.gov.uk)</a>

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		back to Select Committee by the end of April 2025.				
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<p><b>CFLLC 9/24:</b> The Committee supports the Service's <b>£653,105</b> proposals for additional support in schools for neurodiverse children, and makes the following recommendations to demonstrate and reinforce SCC's commitment that no one is left behind:</p> <p>(a) To better understand where the need is and why, by the end of November 2024 the Service undertakes research to identify where the greatest presentation</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Executive Director for Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning, Rachael Wardell</p>	Cabinet 25 June 2024		<p>Response published 22 June 2024: <a href="#">(Public Pack)Cabinet - 25 June 2024 - Supplementary Agenda Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 25/06/2024 14:00 (surreycc.gov.uk)</a></p>

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		<p>of neurodiversity need exists in the county and what the contributory factors are.</p> <p>(b) The offer for the Whole School Autism Friendly Reviews and the Schools Inclusion for Autism Initiatives is underpinned by the offer of implementation support to take the pressure off the schools, with <b>£0.3m</b> allocated to provide such implementation activity in schools which are struggling to cope. It will be for the Service to ascertain which schools would require this to enable them to take up the offer.</p>					
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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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KEY			
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17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 10/24:</b> The Committee asks that, on completion of the co-production programme’s research, a written report is produced to outline the strategy for developing and delivering integrated play and leisure across Surrey. The report should detail what integrated play will be delivered by whom, to whom, where, and by when. It should also address how interaction with voluntary sector providers will work, along with an assessment of the strategy’s anticipated impact, by comparison with existing provision, and how the transition will be	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Executive Director for Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning, Rachael Wardell	Cabinet 25 June 2024	Response published 22 June 2024: <a href="#">(Public Pack)Cabinet - 25 June 2024 - Supplementary Agenda Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 25/06/2024 14:00 (surreycc.gov.uk)</a>
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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		achieved. It should also identify where integrated play will not meet the needs of children with additional needs and disabilities, and how it is anticipated these needs will be met.				
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 11/24:</b> Including £0.5m that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision (which the Committee reserves judgement on until it learns the outcome of recommendation 4), the above initiatives cost a total of £8,196,227. The Committee understands up to £8.3 million may be	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Executive Director for Cabinet Member for Children, Families and	Cabinet 25 June 2024		Response published 22 June 2024: <a href="#">(Public Pack)Cabinet - 25 June 2024 - Supplementary Agenda Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 25/06/2024 14:00 (surreycc.gov.uk)</a>

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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	No Progress Reported	Recommendation/Action In Progress	Recommendation/Action Implemented

		<p>available to support prevention objectives in Children’s Services, which potentially leaves £103,773. Thus the Committee recommends that all hours of SEND play and leisure provided in 2022/23 are restored in 2024/25. It has been indicated that this will now require more than the £370,000 uplift originally advised by the Service, and championed by the Select Committee. It recommends using what remains of the £8.3m to ensure that the objective of the Select Committee as originally intended is achieved – i.e. restoration</p>	<p>Learning, Rachael Wardell</p>				
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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

The actions and 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 meeting. Once an action has been completed, it will be shaded green to indicate that it will be removed from the tracker at the next meeting.

KEY			
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		of the hours of SEND play and leisure in 24/25 to 22/23 levels. If this is not sufficient to restore 2022/23 hours, it recommends the necessary funding is taken from the <b>£0.5m</b> that the Service proposes for a programme developing more inclusive play and leisure in mainstream provision.				
17 April 2024	Adult Learning and Skills Update [Item 8]	<b>CFLLC 12/24:</b> Lifelong Learning produces a map of which adult learning providers across the county provide what courses and where, to enable gaps in provision to	Surrey Adult Learning Service Manager, Francis Lawlor	8 July 2024		Progress checked on 3 July 2024 and 15 July 2024



**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		be identified, by the end of July 2024.				
17 April 2024	Adult Learning and Skills Update [Item 8]	<b>CFLLC 13/24:</b> Surrey Adult Learning and the Economy and Growth team together give renewed consideration to the Task Group's recommendations endorsed by the Select Committee in June 2023.	Head of Economy and Growth, Jack Kennedy; Surrey Adult Learning Service Manager, Francis Lawlor	8 July 2024		Progress checked on 3 July 2024 and 15 July 2024
17 April 2024	Adult Learning and Skills Update [Item 8]	<b>CFLLC 14/24:</b> (a) The Cabinet Member for Children, Families, Lifelong Learning (adult learning) and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth (skills and apprenticeships)	Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth, Matt Furniss; Cabinet Member for Children,	8 July 2024		Progress checked on 3 July 2024 and 15 July 2024

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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		confirm in writing to what extent they believe the 2023 recommendations have been completed; and (b) The Lifelong Learning and Economy and Growth Services assist the Cabinet Members in the above endeavour by producing an analysis of the gap between what was recommended and what has been done, and a programme of work striving to reach completion.	Families and Lifelong Learning, Clare Curran; Head of Economy and Growth, Jack Kennedy; Surrey Adult Learning Service Manager, Francis Lawlor			
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**Actions**

Meeting	Item	Action	Responsible Officer/Member	Deadline	Progress Check On	Update/Response
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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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2 October 2023	Commissioning Within Children, Families And Lifelong Learning [Item 7]	<b>CFLLC 40/23:</b> At a point that Procurement regulations allow, Director for CFL Commissioning to share registration of interests of lead providers with the Committee.	Director – CFL Commissioning for Transformation, Suzanne Smith			This will be actioned when procurement regulations allow. Update: Response emailed to Committee Members on 16 July 2024.
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 11/24:</b> How many schools would be included in the Enhanced Language and Communication Initiative if focusing first on the areas of high deprivation? Would that utilise the whole capacity (up to 50 schools) for the programme or not?	Director for Education and Lifelong Learning, Julia Katherine	23 May 2024		There are 31 schools with reception classes located in the 18 Surrey wards with the highest levels of deprivation (10-30% decile, 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation). This number could increase if it were to include schools bordering these wards which are also supporting similar cohorts of children. The current model is designed to support 26 schools at one time and the scaled up version would support 50 schools. Selection of schools is based on multiple factors with a focus on need. There is a correlation between levels of need related to speech language and communication and deprivation therefore schools in areas of deprivation are more likely

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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						to be selected. They would not however take up the full capacity of the programme.
17 April 2024	CFLL Additional Budget Allocation [Item 6]	<b>CFLLC 12/24:</b> Is the low level of attainment in language and communication referred to on page 63 of the report recognised as a greater problem in areas of deprivation across the county? Please supply supporting data.	Director for Education and Lifelong Learning, Julia Katherine	23 May 2024		This paper shows the links between deprivation and speech and language: <a href="https://www.rcslt.org/wp-content/uploads/media/Project/RCSLT/rcslt-social-disadvantage-factsheet.pdf">https://www.rcslt.org/wp-content/uploads/media/Project/RCSLT/rcslt-social-disadvantage-factsheet.pdf</a> Currently out of the 27 schools in the pilot that have been supported 8 are in the top 5 deprived Boroughs (Spelthorne, Runnymede, Surrey Heath, Woking and Mole Valley (30% of the schools in total). Of the 9 schools confirmed for September 7 are in the top 5 (78%).
17 April 2024	Youth Work Provision [Item 7]	<b>CFLLC 13/24:</b> Provide a list of the locations of the 27 buildings (centres referenced in paragraph 8) and how many of them are currently being used for youth work.	Assistant Director for Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service, Jackie Clementson	23 May 2024		PowerPoint shared with Committee Members by email on 23 May 2024.

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
JULY 2024**

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17 April 2024	Youth Work Provision [Item 7]	<b>CFLLC 14/24:</b> Provide the Committee, ahead of the workshop and confidentially if necessary, with the template Service Level Agreement for third sector providers leasing youth centre buildings.	Service Manager - Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service, Dave McLean	31 May 2024	Emailed to Select Committee Members on 3 June 2024
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# Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee Forward Work Programme 2024

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee  
Chairman: Fiona Davidson | Scrutiny Officer: Julie Armstrong | Democratic Services Assistant: Jacob Schanzenbach

Date of Meeting	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisation I Priorities	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
12 September 2024	Overview, policy development and review	<b>Children Missing Education</b>	Explore how many children of statutory school age are not registered at school or suitably electively home educated, the range of reasons and the impact	Provide an inclusive education system which enables all children and young people to achieve their potential	Tackling health Inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Sandra Morrison, Assistant Director for Inclusion and Additional Needs SE; Mark Keiller, Service Manager for Children Not In School
	Overview, policy development and review	<b>End-to-end review of EHCP process with EHCP Recovery Plan</b>	Learn lessons from and monitor implementation of improvements following in-house review by Digital Discovery team in early 2024 Progress check if plan is working to bring timeliness in line with statutory obligation	Improve EHCP process and timeliness, make easier to navigate and reduce complaints	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Tracey Sanders, Assistant Director for Inclusion and Additional Needs SW; Liz Bone, Send County Service Planning & Performance Leader - SEN Recovery

	Overview, policy development and review	<b>Additional Needs and Disabilities: Parental Experience Task Group</b>	Committee to receive the report of the Additional Needs Task Group	Committee reviews and endorses the report and its recommendations	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Jeremy Webster, Task Group Chairman
<b>14 November 2024</b>	Overview, policy development and review	<b>Transitions to Adulthood</b>	Review outcomes in areas of educational attainment/ destinations, mental health and housing for vulnerable cohorts, particularly those with AND, are how they are helped to prepare for adulthood. Exclude care leavers as these will be subject of deep dive day	Enable disadvantaged children and young people to achieve positive outcomes	Tackling health Inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Julia Katherine, Director – Education and Lifelong Learning;



<p><b>3 December 2024</b></p>	<p>Pre-decision scrutiny</p>	<p><b>2025/26 Budget and MTFS to 2029/30</b></p>	<p>Select Committee to receive draft budget proposals, provide feedback and make recommendations</p>	<p>Help to ensure value for money and sufficiency of services</p>	<p>Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Enabling a greener future, Empowering communities</p>	<p>Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Denise Turner-Stewart, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety; Rachael Wardell, Executive Director – Children, Families and Lifelong Learning; Liz Mills, interim Executive Director – Customer, Digital &amp; Transformation; Anna D’Alessandro, Director - Corporate Finance &amp; Commercial; Rachel Wigley, Director - Finance Insights &amp; Performance; Nikki O’Connor (Corporate), Kay Goodacre (CFL), Louise Lawson (CDC) &amp; Will House (VCFS) Strategic Finance Business Partners</p>
	<p>Overview, policy development and review</p>	<p><b>Libraries</b></p>	<p>Scrutinise modernisation of the Library Estate as part of the Library and Cultural Services Transformation programme, including refurbishment of Epsom, Redhill, Staines and Woking and impact of Open Access technology</p>	<p>Provide modern and inclusive multi-use facilities and value for money</p>	<p>Empowering Communities, Enabling a greener future, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit</p>	<p>Denise Turner-Stewart, Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities; Liz Mills, interim Executive Director of Customer, Digital and Change; Sue Wills, Assistant Director for Cultural Services</p>

<b>13 March 2025</b>	Overview, policy development and review	<b>Intensive Family Support Service</b>	Review performance data on the service from April 2024 supporting families who step up and down from statutory services	Check outcomes of new service	Tackling health inequality, Empowering communities	Maureen Attewell, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning Matt Ansell, Director - Safeguarding & Family Resilience Jackie Clementson, Assistant Director - Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Adam Thomas, Head Of Early Help & Family Support
	Overview, policy development and review	<b>Youth Service</b>	Scrutinise new strategy for universal youth work	Ensure SCC buildings used for intended purpose and young people have supportive environment in community hubs	Tackling health inequality, Empowering communities	Maureen Attewell, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning Matt Ansell, Director - Safeguarding & Family Resilience Jackie Clementson, Assistant Director - Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Dave McLean, Service Manager - Early Help, Youth Justice & Adolescent Service

Informal Meetings

<p><b>28 June 2024 and 30 September 2024</b></p>	<p>Policy development</p>	<p><b>2025/26 Budget briefings</b></p>	<p>June to cover: Core Planning Assumptions, Directorate Budgets, Business Plans, Directorate SWOT Analysis, Performance Data, Budget Monitoring Position, Key Transformation Programmes, review of recent relevant scrutiny. Output: Identify 2 topics for 'deep dive'.</p> <p>September to cover: Deep dive recommendations, Updated Budget Position, in-year budget monitoring position and updated Core Planning Assumptions. Output: Private Briefing Note for Cabinet to consider / inform Draft Budget proposals</p>	<p>As December budget</p>
<p><b>26 September 2024</b></p>	<p>Pre-decision</p>	<p><b>Lifetime of Learning Strategy</b></p>	<p>Briefing on the Lifetime of Learning Strategy going to Cabinet October 2024</p>	<p>Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Julia Katherine, Director – Education and Lifelong Learning</p>
<p><b>tbc</b></p>	<p>Overview, policy development and review</p>	<p><b>Safeguarding of Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children</b></p>	<p>Review the needs of asylum seeking and refugee children and families, and the support provided to them to settle into schools and communities, with a focus on unaccompanied children.</p>	<p>Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning; Mary Burguieres, Assistant Director for Systems &amp; Transformation</p>
<p><b>tbc</b></p>	<p>For information</p>	<p><b>Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) case review</b></p>	<p>For SSCP to share with the Committee learnings from case review on racial incident outside Ashford school.</p>	<p>Derek Benson, Independent Chair SSCP;  Matt Ansell, Director – Family Resilience and Safeguarding</p>

Task and Finish Groups

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Relevant organisational priorities</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Jan-Jul 2024: <b>Additional Needs and Disabilities: Parent and Carer Experience</b>	Tackling health inequality, Empowering communities, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit	Jeremy Webster (Chairman), Jonathan Essex, Mark Sugden, Bob Hughes

Standing Items

- **Recommendations Tracker and Forward Work Programme:** Monitor Select Committee recommendations and requests and forward work programme.

**Performance Overview:** Dashboard of key indicators in SEND, EHCP timeliness and Children’s Services showing level of progress made against ILACS recommendations; social worker and foster carer turnover data; overview comparing current external assessors’ grades with previous year, in all areas of CFLLC remit.

Practice Improvement and Performance Information informal meetings: 22 July, 10 September and 2 December 2024.



Tuesday, 30 July 2024

**HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE UPDATE****Purpose of report:**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a further update on the Home to School Travel Assistance (H2STA) Improvement Programme undertaken by the Surrey School Travel and Assessment Team (SSTAT) and the current performance of the service provided to children, young people, and families in Surrey. The report sets out a comparison of Key Performance Indicators since June 2023, and an update on the ongoing improvement work to the service and our end-to-end system since December 2023 as well as initiatives to enhance families experience for the school year beginning September 2024. The report also provides an update on the 10 recommendations put forward by Family Voice in their survey findings report in October 2023.

**Introduction**

1. Approximately 160,000 pupils attend education settings each day in Surrey. A small proportion (around 7%) qualify for home to school travel assistance. The Home to School Travel Assistance (H2STA) service currently provide travel support to 10,693 children and young people of which 5,291 (49.5%) have additional needs and disabilities (AND). Provision of travel assistance is statutory in certain circumstances, as set out in the Education Act 1996.
2. In December 2023 the CFLL Select Committee requested that an update be made available on the service's performance and progress as we approach the summer and put forward accompanying recommendations which are accounted for in this report with an update on their progress.
3. A separate report, part of the same agenda, was presented by Family Voice Surrey detailing families' experiences during the summer, accompanied by a detailed survey. This included an additional 12 recommendations (19 actions) on how to improve the customer experience for residents.
4. The report will first focus on a summary of the key operational performance indicators followed by a look at the key efficiencies that the Service is working towards over the 2024-25 financial year. We will then provide an update on service improvements further digital innovation and improvements to communications and stakeholder engagement.
5. We detail a number of challenges presented over the next few weeks and months as we approach the start of term in September, and as we continue along this current

financial year. Some of the challenges are situated both upstream and downstream but we have captured mitigations.

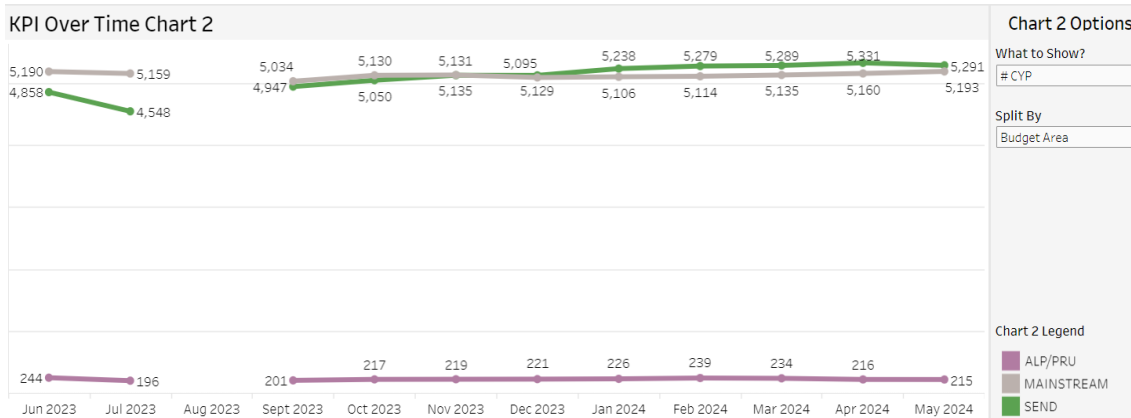
6. Included in the report, found in the appendix, are thoughts and experiences that we have captured from a number of stakeholders that we have engaged with through surveys, including transport operators, families and young people from the ATLAS youth participation group as we continue to centre the thoughts of who we work on behalf of and support.

## **Data and Reporting**

7. Since January 2024 we have implemented a series of changes to our reporting. The service has gone live with a new and improved format of the Commissioning Compendium, the standard reporting tool. The new format of the Commissioning Compendium looks at the performance of the service “end to end”, from the management of transport applications through to route review, including elements of user feedback, success stories and identified risks, as well as budget monitoring information. The new reporting format provides senior managers with the data and context necessary to support decision making.
8. We have refined reporting to support financial forecasting, including identifying internal movement across transport types and any associated savings.
9. Our Tableau dashboard reporting capabilities have evolved over the last 12 months, with more rigorous connection with both our application storage area (Sharepoint) and route planning systems (Mobisoft).

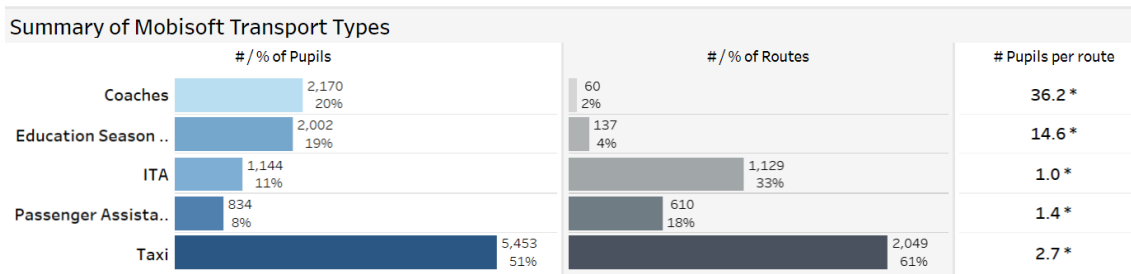
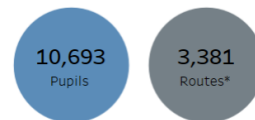
## **Current Performance and Demand**

10. The number of Children and Young People accessing the service has increased by roughly 400 (or 3.8%) over the last 12 months to a current total of 10,693:
  - 5,291 SEND
  - 5,193 Mainstream (CYP who do not hold an EHCP)
  - 215 ALP/PRU (CYP attending Alternative Learning Placements or Pupil Referral Units).
  - There are now 1,144 children and young people (11%) who are travelling to their education settings more independently via the Independent Travel Allowance (ITA), an increase of 18% since June 2023.
11. The increase in numbers as a trend is expected to continue in the years ahead when aligning our trends with those within school place planning and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) forecast modelling.



### Home to School Transport - Activity KPIs

Showing all activity data for contracts active in May 2024



12. As of June 2024, the average cost per annum of a travel arrangement for a child or young person with additional needs and disabilities is £9,283 and is currently significantly higher than that of mainstream at £2,162. These differences increase the time and resource needed by staff from the point of application through to the delivery of transport.

### Applications

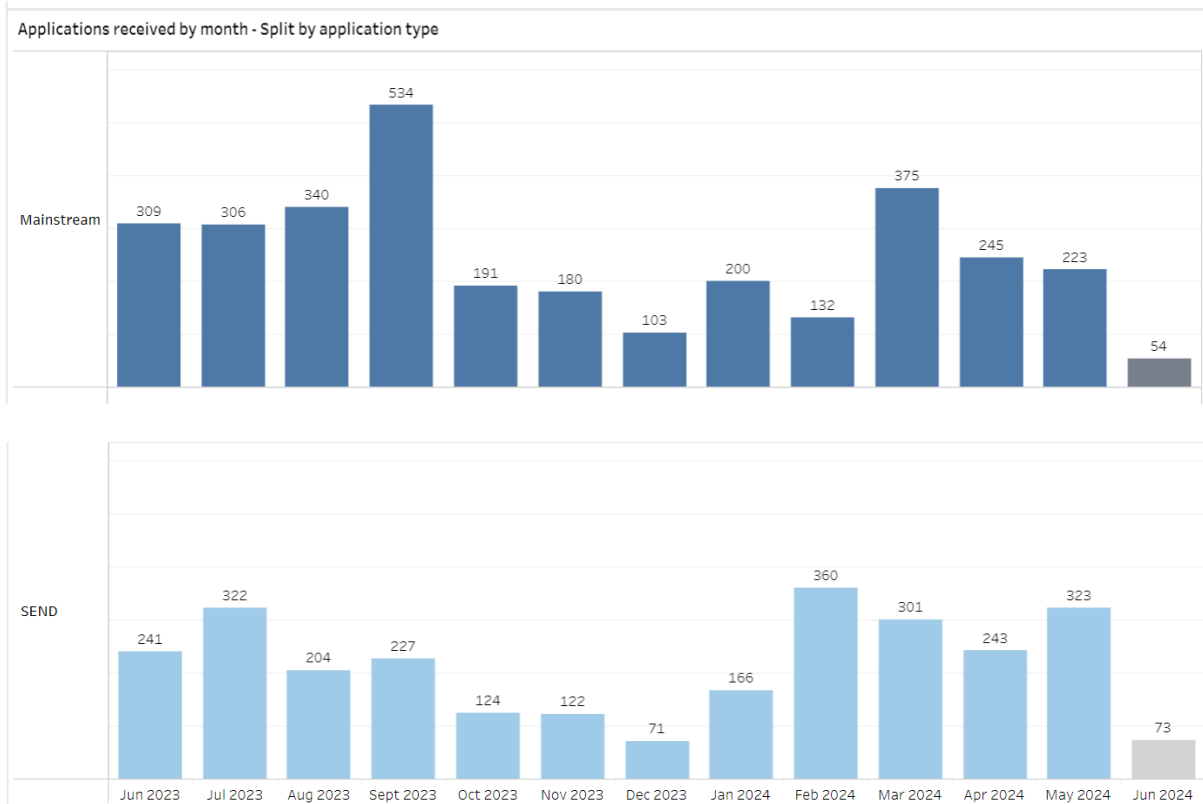
13. Applications since June 2023 have remained steady with notable surges in mainstream applications between August and October 2023 and a 26.8% increase in mid-year SEND applications in 2024 compared with the same point last year. However, these peaks are in not comparable to the size of the peak in May 2022 (910 applications). We have also extended travel assistance beyond key stage again this year for around 160 children remaining at their special school, further reducing potential demand later in the year.

14. The increase in the number of SEND requests are those which are not bound by the annual process for the start of the new academic year in September (in-year travel assistance applications).

2023	2024
351	473

(In-Year SEND applications (Under 16 yrs – up to June 12))

15. Notably, applications are broadly in-line with last year in terms of overall numbers, with further evidence of the proactive communications undertaken in 2023 which led to manageable increases in the spring continuing to breed success.



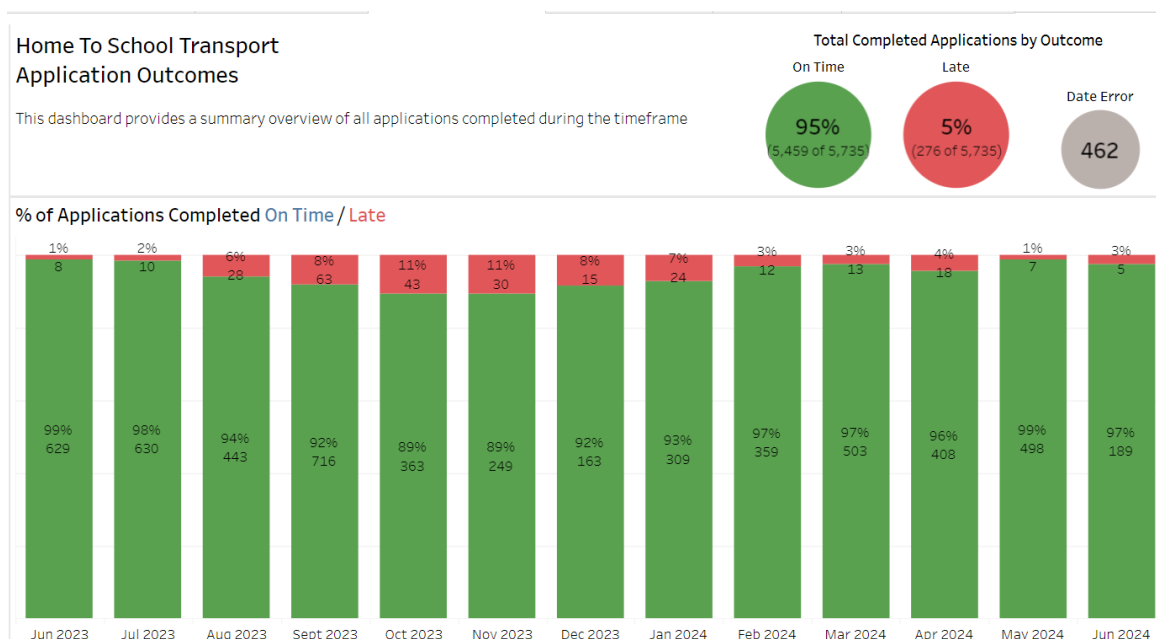
16. The mainstream breakdown above does not include bulk assessment (a process used to review eligibility of mainstream pupils as part of the annual admissions process), which represents a separate process that led to 360 pupils eligible for travel assistance from September 2024. This is a decrease from 2023, where 630 pupils were deemed eligible.

17. The drop in eligible numbers is down in part to a streamlining of the bulk process this year, with updated communications issued to all families encouraging them to apply for travel assistance. Along with a reduction in eligible students owing to a review of safe walking routes undertaken, resulting in other appropriate travel routes being identified.

18. The bulk process was completed by the 22 March, a further improvement on last year, with eligible families notified during the last week in March.



19. Application timeliness has remained generally consistent over the last 12 months, with an average of 95% of applications being considered within the 20-day standard Service Level Agreement. Reasons as to why application assessments are delayed can be due to a number of factors including complex medical needs requiring further assessment, or an inability to assess an application to a lack of documentation (e.g. the EHCP) where the Team have had to contact colleagues in SEND and update a parent or carer of the progress.



20. So far in 2024, application numbers in May increased by 36% compared with January 24. Application eligibility is at 61%, a decrease of 9 percentage points on March 2023. The proportion of applications for pupils with additional needs has returned to 45% after an increase in March following the Key Stage Transfer (KST) placement deadline (February 15).

21. The Service has continued with ensuring that timeliness for the assessment of applications for travel assistance has been maintained. April's Children, Families and Lifelong Learning compendium includes a snapshot of key KPIs. In April 2024, 97% of applications were assessed within our 20-day timescales for assessment. This is in spite of an overall increase in in-year numbers where immediate travel is required.

## Transport Delivery

22. The monthly Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFL) compendium includes reporting on eligible children and young people awaiting transport for over 10 working days. This measure was introduced last year and accounts for children and young people requiring travel assistance mid-year (outside of September). Currently, the process of gathering data on this KPI is undertaken manually using information provided by our route planning software – Mobisoft and added to the monthly CFL compendium.

23. Ongoing developments include a monitoring dashboard for compliance against our service level agreement for in-year and September, which will enable a more efficient

of reporting on the 10-day KPI. The dashboard will also include the total number of arrangements outstanding that are within 10 working days at any one time.

Children and Young People waiting for transport arrangements longer than 10 days. Since inception in the Autumn last year, no families have waited longer than 10 working days for confirmation of their travel arrangements:

Dec '23	Jan '23	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr'24	May'24	Jun'24
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

24. The Summer Review of all transport routes and operators commenced towards the end of May, and we have a significant ambition of completing this early that will allow earlier communication to families as well as giving time for applications that we receive during the summer. We have agreed with Family Voice a new transport delivery KPI for families whose CYP are due to start in September 2024.

### **Appeals, enquiries and complaints**

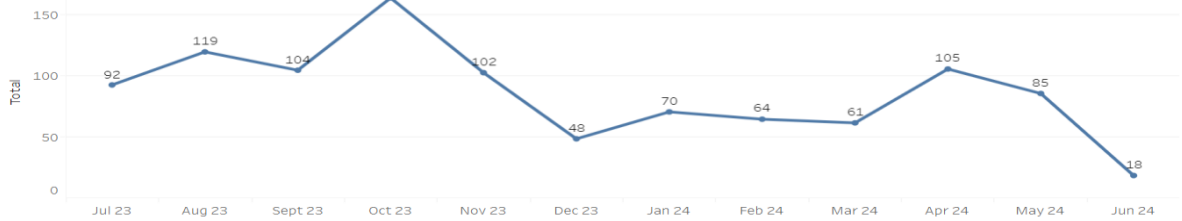
25. From July 2023 to June 2024, timeliness of issuing stage one appeal outcomes has continued, with an average of between 97% and 100% of outcomes issued within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days. An increase in stage one appeals during September and October coincided with a surge in mainstream travel assistance applications submitted during the summer and into the autumn term 2023.

26. The Service is currently experiencing an increase in appeals for discretionary travel assistance (children aged Under 5 and aged 16-19 and 19-25) as we look to align more closely with our current policy while also ensuring that we fulfil our statutory duty and meet the demands for travel assistance for children of statutory school age, remaining mindful of the current budgetary pressure.

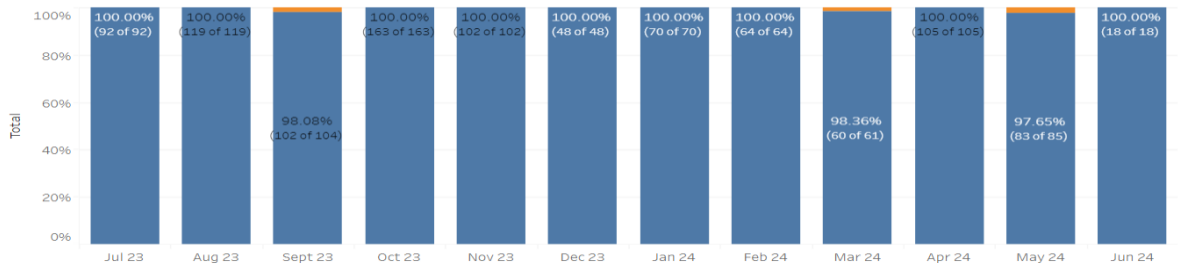
## Home To School Transport Stage 1 Appeals Timeliness



Number of Stage 1 Appeals by Month



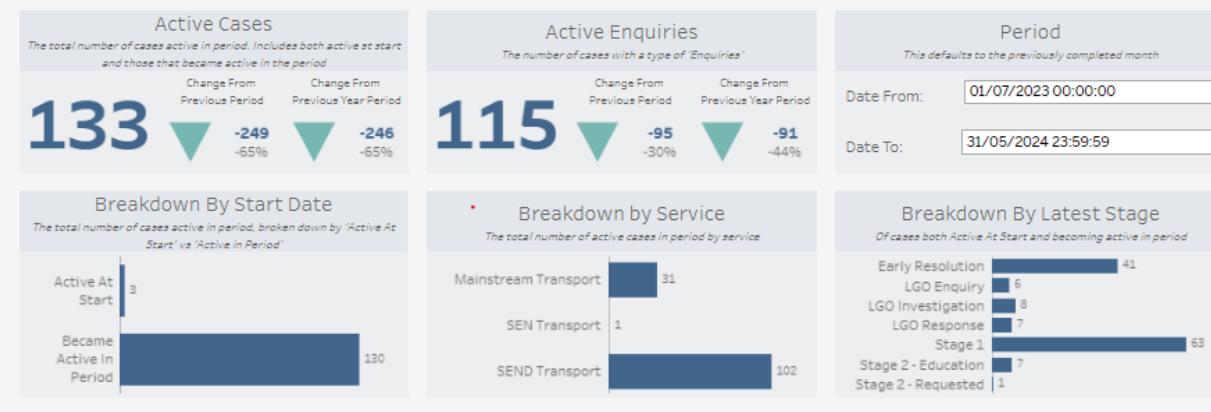
Stage 1 Appeals by Status



27. From July 23 to June 24, there has been a consistent decrease in the number of complaints and MP enquiries received in comparison to the same period the previous year. On average there has been an 65% decrease in active complaints and a 44% decrease in active enquiries. All have been responded to within timescale (other than in cases where the team were awaiting input from another service/LGSCO).

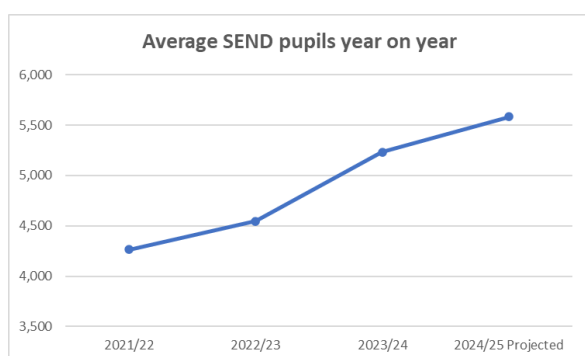
## Home To School Transport: Active Complaints

This dashboard displays information from the CaseTracker system. The data is refreshed each morning. By default the period displayed is for the previous completed month. This can be changed by using the filters in the 'Date From' and 'Date To' sections



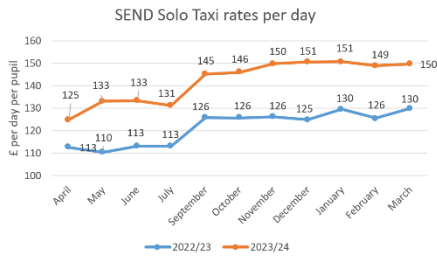
## Financial Position

28. The total net spend for the financial year 2023-24 to date (including costs recovered from other local authorities) was £64,675,000, which is £10,347,000 above budget. The increase in cost is mainly due to an increase in both price and volume. Inflationary prices along with driver shortages and increasing complexity of need has driven up prices. Recovery work on EHCPs has driven up the volumes of SEND pupils on transport, accounting for the volume increase year on year.
29. Transport costs continue to rise with increasing numbers of pupils with additional needs. As highlighted earlier, a pupil with additional need costs 8 times more on average than a mainstream pupil. Pupil numbers with additional needs have been growing year on year as shown in the table below;



30. 2023/24 saw a sharper increase in pupil numbers following the EHCP recovery work, which is now drawing to a close. 2024/25 is projected to see continued growth in SEND pupils, projecting to end the year with 5,750 pupils compared to 5,525 at the start of the year.
31. The forecast position for 2024/25 projects a £7.4m overspend, with a further £2.5m risk. This reflects a multitude of factors, including growth in pupil numbers exceeding the assumptions applied at the time of budget setting. Continued increases in rates, partially driven from the increased average distance being travelled and from a worsening mix in transport type with increased use of solo taxi's.
32. Blind bidding was introduced in January 2024 and is having a positive impact on actual rates being paid, but this may be being offset by continued new routes at greater distances in solo taxi's. Work continues to analyse the data to get to a clear understanding of the position.
33. The forecast projections assumes the sufficiency strategy for SEND placements will meet a large proportion of demand within Surrey and assist the H2STA budgets by reducing demands on transport need. Continued work on efficiencies across numerous programmes at improving the transport type by promoting personal budgets where possible, or independent transport arrangements.
34. The Authority has seen a steady increase in rates paid to transport operators for both shared and solo taxis. The average shared taxi rate in June 2023 was £46 per day, which has risen to £51 in March 2024 and the end of the financial year. The average solo taxi rate has increased from £133 per day in June 2023 to £150 in March 2024, partially attributed to increased distances being travelled. We are continuing our investigations into average distances and mileage compared with last year for a complete picture.

## H2STA – Taxi analysis – rates paid

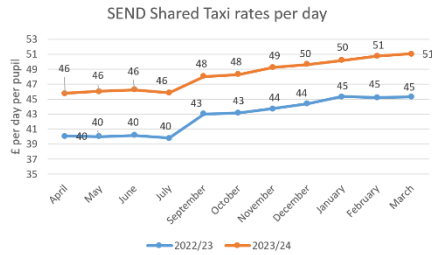


The Graph shows the steadily increasing rates paid for solo taxi's as explained earlier. The trends year on year show a level of consistency, with a step change seen in September for the new contracts being entered into and the ability of the market to dictate the price.

Average rates increased by 10.6% in September alone.

Rate increases appear to be slowing from January, blind bidding was introduced in the dynamic purchasing system in Jan 24 to drive competition.

Shared taxi arrangements are similar to the solo taxi arrangements with steadily increasing rates. The jump in rates in September has not been as dramatic as in the prior year, but still reflecting a 4.3% increase.



The slides below represent actual outturn for 2023-24 of transport spend and comparison figures.

## H2STA



The 2023/24 outturn for H2STA was £64,665k, £10,325k adverse to budget.

£54,667k of the spend relates to SEND (85%), an increase of £12,612k from 2022/23 (30%)

£45,988k relates to SEND taxi's, 71% of total H2STA spend.

Number of EHCP's maintained by Surrey

EHCP's	Mar-24	Mar-23	Movement	% Movement
Numbers maintained	14,770	13,146	1,624	12.4%

Number of SEND pupils on transport

SEND transport	Mar-24	Mar-23	Movement	% Movement
Numbers transported	5,525	5,008	517	10.3%

## H2STA SEND breakdown

Total spend £000's	2023/24	2022/23	Movement	% Movement
Taxi's Solo	13,756	10,186	3,570	35.0%
Taxi's shared	32,231	27,070	5,162	19.1%
Coaches	57	42	15	35.0%
Passenger Assist	5,743	4,494	1,249	27.8%
ITA	2,780	1,444	1,336	92.5%
Railcards	100	51	49	95.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,667</b>	<b>43,286</b>	<b>11,381</b>	<b>26.3%</b>

The chart shows the main increase in spend in year is in taxi's, with increases seen across all transport types. Independent travel allowances has seen the largest increase of 92.5%

The increase in pupils spread across the transport types shows the drive to ITA's being a more cost-effective methods of transport, with 59% of SEND pupil growth being met through an ITA.

Average pupil numbers	2023/24	2022/23	Movement	% Movement
Taxi's Solo	625	512	113	22.1%
Taxi's shared	3,693	3,504	189	5.4%
Coaches	37	31	6	20.9%
Passenger Assist	772	724	48	6.6%
ITA	883	605	278	45.9%
Railcards	75	43	32	74.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,231</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>10.2%</b>

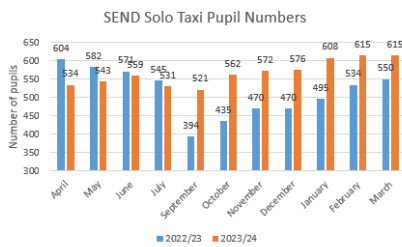
Note, pupils may have multiple transport types dependent on the circumstance, i.e. shared transport for school but solo arrangement for therapy, therefore the sum of pupils will not equal the total SEND pupils

Average rates per day £	2023/24	2022/23	Movement	% Movement
Taxi's Solo	£137.71	£120.06	£17.65	14.7%
Taxi's shared	£48.14	£42.74	£5.40	12.6%
Coaches	£8.69	£7.43	£1.26	16.9%
Passenger Assist	£46.43	£31.89	£14.54	45.6%
ITA	£16.67	£15.59	£1.08	7.0%
Railcards	£6.37	£6.03	£0.34	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£58.16</b>	<b>£51.79</b>	<b>£6.37</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

Rates have increased significantly across all transport types, reflecting inflation, negotiation of 3 year contracts, lack of market competition in places, driver shortages, promoting the green agenda, increase in miles per journey and increasing complexity of need.

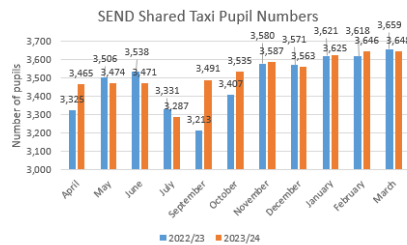


## H2STA – Taxi analysis – pupil numbers

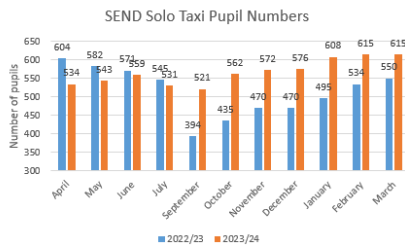


The Graph shows the increasing numbers in solo taxi's, with trends in 2023/24 not following prior year trends. This is in part due to the H2STA team addressing referrals into the team in a timelier manner.

Shared taxi arrangements are similar to the solo taxi arrangements in that the trend line has not followed prior year trends, again due to the improved response to referrals into the team.

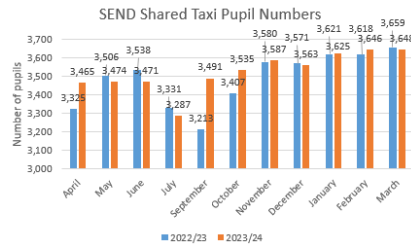


## H2STA – Taxi analysis – pupil numbers

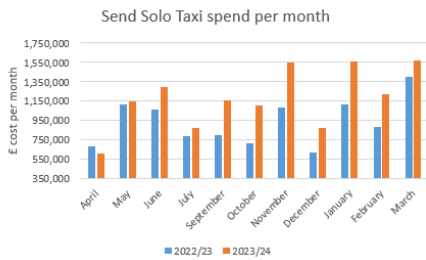


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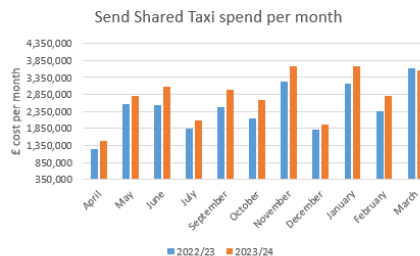
## H2STA – Taxi analysis – Spend



It is clear spend has significantly increased month on month against the prior year. Monthly spend varies significantly with the number of academic days in a month.

Spend reflecting both the increase in pupils being transported on average 7.7% up on 2022/23 and price increases of 28.2% higher than prior year it also needs recognising 2022/23 had an additional bank holiday.

Shared taxi arrangements are similar to the solo taxi arrangements showing increase in spend on a monthly basis.



*In terms of spend on taxis, while pupil numbers have risen by 3.8% over the last 12 months (where the Council provides travel assistance for an additional 400 children and young people), taxi costs have risen by 28.2% in total.*

### Efficiencies

35. Whilst the budget remains a challenge, cost avoidance or savings made in the financial year 2023-24 amounted to £2.8m.
36. From May this year, monthly meetings have been set up with colleagues from Finance and Analysis and Evaluation to map and monitor how the Team is progressing with

identified efficiencies. The first meeting was held in April. A Terms of Reference has been developed which details the agreed method for calculating savings and cost avoidance, available at the end of this report.

<b>Target area</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Post-16</b>	Increase allocation of the ITA and more robust eligibility process to reduce taxi cohort	Post-16 project underway, more robust eligibility mechanism in place and only offering an ITA to Year 11 transition students.
<b>Personal Travel Budgets</b>	Shift families off of taxis on to higher rate PTB	Current saving of £830,000 since September 2023 from 41 families accepting a PTB
<b>Sole Providers</b>	Shifting to one provider per education setting in some circumstances. Improving service quality and reducing cost with an emphasis on less solo arrangements by introducing a set cost per mile.	Bids received across 5 different schools. Analysis underway to evaluate the costs prior to award of contract for September 2024 start.
<b>Under 5s</b>	Reduce the number of Under 5s accessing travel assistance:  Currently 165 children under the age of 5 are being transported on solo taxis.  56% of which are on solos with PA's.	More robust decision-making around eligibility, with a separate parameters document in place to ensure we are fair when considering stage one travel appeals.
<b>Blind bidding</b>	Implement pilot process where transport operators cannot see other bids for the same route	Full year projection - £600,000 saving so far. Further 183 routes due to be optimised this summer.
<b>Alternative Placements</b>	<b>Learning</b> Reduce current high cost taxi burden	Engagement ALP providers in order to encourage more students to access their



		placements via public transport
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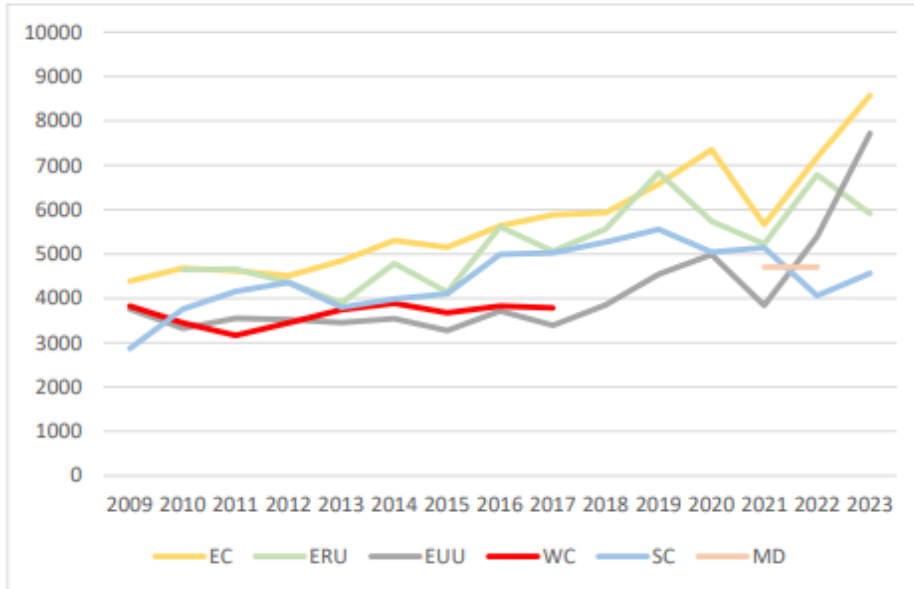
**Benchmarking with CCN members (Out-turn net expenditure on SEND transport for eligible pupils in 2022-23).**

37. The County Council Network's (CCN) report, issued in November 2023 builds on the established national picture of spiralling H2ST costs and illustrates the national challenges facing local authorities coalescing around a number of similar and competing demands including an increase in the numbers of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities who hold an EHCP by 50% from 105,000 in 2015 to 230,000 in 2023.

<b>LA</b>	<b>Number of SEND CYP receiving transport</b>	<b>Yearly spend on SEND transport (financial year 2022-23)</b>
<b>Staffordshire</b>	2,715	£25,000,000
<b>Hampshire</b>	3,131	£33,438,839
<b>Kent</b>	7,675	£57,636,965
<b>Devon</b>	2,316	£25,095,802
<b>Surrey</b>	5,291	£54,667,000

Figure 6-1 shows that English counties, English rural unitary authorities, English urban unitary authorities and Scottish authorities have all seen increased costs per pupil.

**Figure 6-1 Average expenditure per pupil carried on SEND transport (2009-2023).**



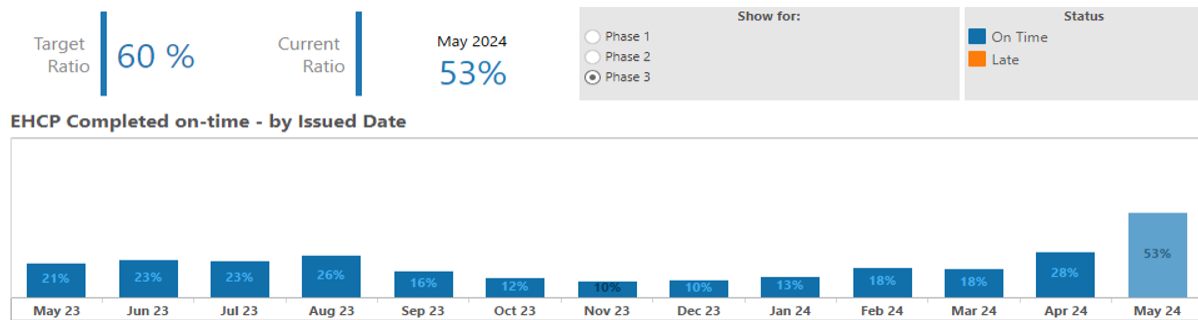
(ATCO Survey 2023)

38. We have been in discussion with several local authorities to share best practice and discuss their budget positions. The ATCO (Association of Transport Coordination) is a rich resource as well as a cathartic platform for information and testing market strategies. The Service hosted the regional meeting this year as well as attended the half yearly conference. Further information is shared on the ATCO PT Survey Report 2023 (see sources and background information at the foot of this report).

## **EHCP Recovery Plan**

39. A comprehensive multi-agency recovery plan has been underway with the objective of 60% of Education, Health and Care Assessments (EHCNAs) being completed within the statutory timeframe of 20 weeks, by the end of May 2024. This target surpasses the national timeliness percentage and aligns closely with the 2021 performance.
40. The recovery plan was in response to a dip in timeliness and the development of a backlog of overdue EHCNAs as a result of a shortage of available educational psychologists who are required to provide advice as part of the EHCNA process and reduced SEND service staffing.
41. A £15 million investment was allocated for Special Educational Needs (SEN), Educational Psychology (EP), and early intervention capacity over a three-year period. This enabled the enhancement of resources to complete overdue assessments and ensure timely assessments for children with higher risks.
42. The plan encompasses three key objectives:
- **Reducing Long Waiting Times:**
    - To complete the EHC needs assessments for all children, young people, families, and schools who have been waiting longer than the statutory timescales as soon as practically possible.
  - **Better Support While Waiting:**
    - To support children, young people, families, and schools as effectively as possible whilst they are having to wait longer than they should.
  - **Securing a Sustainable Service Model:**
    - The goal is to restore a sustainable service quickly, ensuring that the majority of EHC needs assessments are completed within statutory timescales, beginning with achieving a 60% rate and ultimately striving for 100%.
43. The impact of the recovery plan to date has been:
- The backlog of overdue educational psychology statutory advice has been cleared.
  - Over 1000 EHCPs have been issued between March 2024 and May 2024.
  - We have improved from 10% of EHCPs being issued on time in November 2023 to 53% May 2024.
  - In the last week of May we issued 74% of plans on time.
44. We anticipate EHCP timeliness remaining at around 60% of plans being issued on time in June, before seeing further improvements from July. We have already issued 68% of the plans due in June on time (as of 11<sup>th</sup> June).

**Figure y – Timeliness of EHCPs by month in which plan issued**



45. The recovery plan has meant that a large number of EHCPs have been issued this year which has led to an anticipated demand for transport.

### Modelling demand for H2STA

46. The link between the number of EHCPs maintained by the local authority and the number of young people requiring transport arrangements is well established, as 85% of the H2STA spend is on young people with AND.

47. On this basis, work is currently underway to develop an in-house model looking at projecting the number of CYP on an EHCP. The model is being set up to look not only at the overall number of plans, but also at the type of need and expected destination of young people on a plan (in terms of placement type), based on historical data on placement moves within and outside of key stage transfer.

48. The model is a probabilistic model, in that it is built by assigning to individual CYP on a plan a probability score in terms of whether they might move placement and their likely destination. The probability score is calculated based on historical data about cases with the same need and placement type. The model is run for a set number of instances (usually one thousand), which returns brackets of values for the overall number of EHCPs Surrey can expect to be maintaining and for each of the placement sub-categories. Each bracket is formed of a top value (maximum number of CYP in that category across all instances of the model), a bottom value (minimum number of CYP in that category across all instances of the model), and average value (sitting between minimum and maximum and showing the number of placements deemed most likely to occur by the model).

49. The model is currently being finalised, and it is expected to be operational at the end of June 2024.

50. Data from the EHCP model is then going to be used for the development of a dependent H2ST demand model, which will triangulate the values produced by the EHCP model with the expected rate of CYP accessing H2STA support for each placement category to produce a top, bottom and average value in terms of the number of young people expected to access H2STA transport arrangements.

51. Finally, average spend for each placement category will be adjusted to expected inflation and will be brought into the model to produce a financial forecast of spend, again returning a three-point projection as described above.
52. It is crucial to highlight that while models of the type described above are important planning tools and are crucial in the development of strategies and budgets, they cannot take into account unforeseen circumstances such as sudden developments in the market, changes in statutory duties and policy, or inflationary pressures beyond the nationally expected picture, and they are therefore to be taken as useful guidance based on the available knowledge at the time of development. Any changes in the circumstances surrounding the service that might impact on the number of CYP accessing the service, the type of service being offered, or the cost of the service, will need to be carefully monitored and used to progressively develop the financial forecast accordingly.

## **Improvement Plan Update**

### **5-16 statutory school age policy**

53. The Council is refreshing the Home to School Travel Assistance (H2S TA) policy in a number of key areas. In doing so we will proactively engage with parents, carers, schools and colleges and other stakeholders. The policy will help align the Authority's commitment to moving away from an offer of school transport to a travel assistance model, with an increased focus on sustainability and Surrey's green agenda. Moving forward, the Council wants to focus on:
  - Updating the Council's School Transport Policy to reflect current national guidance which was issued in June 2023, and ensure that the language we use to define travel assistance is also in-line with other Local Authorities.
  - Personal Travel Budgets (PTBs) to replace Independent Travel Allowances (ITA's) and to available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market.
  - Enforcing eligibility parameters around the implications for travel assistance when a family does not their nearest geographical school when a family applies for a school place, ensuring that we are aligned with national guidance.
  - Updated the guidance to reflect the sometimes bespoke and complex nature of packages of provision that the Council is increasingly agreeing Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) and what travel assistance we would provide for eligible children and young people. We will consider these requests on an individual basis.
  - Guidance on our approach to dual placements has not changed from the travel assistance policy issued in April 2022.
54. We are working with SCC's Residence Intelligence Unit to ensure that we communicate effectively with families who may be affected by the refreshed policy

and target messaging accordingly. The Community Engagement Plan will ensure that we communicate with stakeholders who may be potentially affected by the updated policy in a more nuanced fashion than via a blanket consultation.

### **Post-16 (16-25) Policy Statement**

55. An updated post-16 statement was issued on the 4 April 2024 and included a number of updates from 2023:
- We have amended the 1<sup>st</sup> term (Autumn) payment due date for the post-16 contribution, where local authorities can levy a charge for 16-19 travel assistance. We have added in the policy statement that any transport arrangements may be withdrawn if the 1<sup>st</sup> term's payment hasn't been submitted by the start of term in September.
  - While we will, in exceptional circumstances, continue to provide travel assistance in the form of contracted transport (private hire vehicles such as taxis and minibuses), we have removed reference to 'taxi' from the statement as we continue to prioritise the independent travel allowance and public transport as the main discretionary travel solution.

### **Communications**

56. Building on the improvements to messaging last year, there is now one point of contact within the management team to oversee all large communication pieces that are issued. Our communications plan has been developed further to unify messaging across the four main teams within the SSTAT.
57. Feedback from Family Voice in October 2023 pointed to a number of families receiving confirmation of travel arrangements much closer to the start of the autumn term in September than previously anticipated. This was partly driven by the SSTAT arranging travel arrangements for children whose applications were submitted late in the summer (August) causing a number of reviews of schools with high numbers of travel routes being finalised late.
58. This year, we have worked with Family Voice, and listened to feedback, paying particular attention to the travel assistance survey issued in October 2023. Our approach to the review this year and the associated communications has changed along with how we prioritise requests for travel assistance.
59. This year, for children and young people starting their school or other education settings in September 2024, we will provide confirmation of travel arrangements to all eligible families who have submitted an application for travel assistance up to seven days before the start of term if a family has applied for travel assistance before the 31 July. Whereas the information provided to families has been automated, the gathering of this data will continue to be a manual collation exercise until a Tableau dashboard has been implemented – which is still in development by colleagues in Analysis and Evaluation.
60. For applications that are submitted in August, travel assistance in the form of contracted transport will not be in-place for the start of term. The LA will offer an interim travel allowance, and we will start considering arrangements for eligible children and

young people whose families have applied in August after term starts. In 2023, we received 114 requests for travel arrangements in August for children with additional needs and disabilities. It is difficult to project the number that the Service will receive this year, but we will target our messaging to ensure that eligible families affected will be kept up to date with developments.

61. Our messaging around this has included:

- The Key Stage Transfer letters issued with a child’s final Education, Health and Care Plan.
- The application auto-responses that are issued with eligible applications.
- The travel assistance operational guide.
- The SSTAT website pages, which now includes Under 16 and Post-16 FAQs.
- A service updates webpage providing key updates and information.
- The Parent Guide jointly developed with Family Voice which will be re-issued this summer with the updated Travel Assistance Policy.
- The planned creation of a ‘how to guide’ for eligibility and travel assistance appeals.

**Surveys and stakeholder engagement**

62. We have continued our plans for further engagement with families and since December have focused more on targeted surveying. The aim is to capture the sentiments of specific areas of development and improvements.

So far this year we have:

- Issued a survey to families who currently receive a Personal Travel Budget as part of the pilot programme.
- Issued a survey to families who currently receive the post-16 travel allowance, to capture the views since we increased the allocation of the allowance since September 2022.
- Created a general feedback form where families who have recently can provide feedback.
- Held two transport operator forums in April with transport providers and issued two surveys, a general survey and a survey relating to usage of the ADAM Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).
- Held an initial meeting with the ATLAS group, discussing their personal travel requirements, along with how we could further improve the travel offer (both funded and non-funded) across SCC.

2024 Surveys	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Personal Travel Budgets												
General feedback - external												
Operators												
P16 Independent travel allowance												
Family Voice - Joint survey SEND												
Eligible families - Mainstream												
Department health Checks - internal												
General feedback - internal												
Communication from Service												
<b>Youth participation Group - tbc</b>												
<b>Schools - tbc</b>												
Internal learning review from complaints & appeals												
Composing Survey												
Survey Live												
Review & analyse data												

Appendix A details the survey feedback from the following:

- Operator forum
- Post-16 ITA survey
- General feedback form
- Personal Travel Budgets



## Family Voice – response to recommendations

63. Progress that the Service has made in implementing the 8 recommendations proposed by Family Voice and supported by Select Committee is outlined below, and includes feedback that the group received from families who engaged with the SSTAT during 2023, in particular during the summer in anticipation of the start of the academic year in September.

Recommendation	Status	Update
<p><b>1. Family Voice:</b> To have a clear and robust roadmap of how the current application/assessment and delivery processes are going to be significantly changed to ensure that families are not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Left without transport at the start of term.</li> <li>• That families are given a fair and timely decision.</li> <li>• That families have regular communication and updates throughout the process at different stages of the year.</li> <li>• That families are given clear and consistent information about the specific transport arrangements at least 7 days before the start of term so that they can prepare their child or young person.</li> </ul>	Complete	<p>Communication remains a high priority for the team, a full review of how we communicate to our families and carers, internal partners and key stakeholders has been undertaken and a schedule has been created to identify the services key activities. We have a working document that holds the services key activity along with a quick reference sheet that will be shared internally to support this.</p> <p>Automation has been further developed this year with easier notification for operators, schools and families through our Mobisoft system.</p> <p>The Summer Review has already started, and we have a significant ambition of completing this early that will allow earlier communication to families as well as giving time for application that we receive during the summer.</p>
<p><b>2. Family Voice:</b> To have a robust communication process which should include a central one point of contact email address and telephone number that parents can contact the transport team on.</p>	Ongoing	<p>We use the Online Enquiry form to channel all our communications. This clearly stated that we aim to respond within 5 working days, unless it is a safeguarding, incident, or accident report, in which case we will respond to you as a matter of urgency. <a href="https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/home-to-school-enquiry">Home to school enquiry - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Telephone contact can be made via our <b>Contact Centre on - 0300 200 1004, these lines are open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. The teamwork from a 'live' call back sheet and aim to respond with a call back in 24 hours. This may be adjusted during peak periods and will be communicated to the caller to manage their expectations.</b></p> <p>We have developed a family journey roadmap (Appendix B) which we are aiming to loop in with the communications review that colleagues in SEND and Customer Relations are undertaking in an effort to map a families' start-to-end journey, and where teams and services intersect.</p> <p>A high-level communications plan for the Service is included in Appendix B and covers the various comms points across the teams within the SSTAT</p> <p>Appendix B also includes a table of key communication points and our method for engaging with families.</p>
<p><b>3. Family Voice:</b> To have a clear and transparent information available to families about the training and safeguarding checks drivers receive prior to driving children. This should also detail refresher training and checks</p> <p>A clear and transparent process of how to report concerns about drivers or PA's or incidents with other children and the process that follows this. This should include clear timescales and how to escalate if this is not followed.</p> <p>Clear steps and guidance on measures to keep children safe to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car seats</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p>Our operational guide was launched in April we have included a section on our service standards. Here we detail that all Surrey County Councils contracted drivers and PA's must carry authorised ID badges which include Enhanced DBS Disclosure and additional checks, a parent, carer, educational setting can ask to view this at any time.</p> <p>All drivers and PAs will undertake Safeguarding training prior to their badges being issued. They will then undergo further Safeguarding and Disability Awareness training as soon as possible and within the first year of service. This information is available within the Parent Guide and is part of the ongoing review of our web pages.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers use of mobile phones</li> <li>• Seatbelts</li> <li>• Information about a child passed to the driver</li> </ul> <p>To implement a safeguarding contact line that parent carers and schools can report urgent safeguarding concerns about transport (driver or other occupants) These concerns should be responded to within 24 hours and dealt within 5 working days depending on the level of risk. Guidance should be put together to demonstrate how parents and carers and schools will be kept up to date and the process they will follow.</p>		<p>Our teams take safeguarding and allegations extremely seriously and will work with the families, educational settings, and operators to ensure measures are put in place to support the pupil and address the situation in a timely manner.</p> <p>In terms of initial screening and action: we automatically suspend both the driver and/or PA (they are removed from the route and from all of our existing contracts). This we consider is an immediate removal of risk and therefore dealt with quickly. We also notify the family submitting the concern.</p> <p>Investigations can take longer if a full investigation (involving disciplinary hearings) however in the 1<sup>st</sup> instance, the above action still applies.</p> <p>We have started to regularly meet with schools, operator and school collaboration is being developed. We are also developing operator quality by offering several Sole Provider contracts building even better relationships between school, family and operator. A dedicated phone line for Operators is in place to report any safeguarding concerns. This is manned by the SSTAT Delivery and Contract and Control Teams between the hours of 7.30 - 17.30 (termtime) and 9.00-17.00 (during holidays).</p> <p>We are reviewing the viability of opening a phone line to report incidents, mindful of its intended purpose to ensure that only concerns deemed severe are raised. While we do not currently operate an official 'RAG' rating, we can continue reviewing our incident logging processes.</p> <p>Attached in Appendix C are the following:</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>Suitability Policy</p> <p>Code of Practice for Allegations, Complaints and Safeguarding Concerns.</p>
<p><b>4. Family Voice:</b> To develop a robust process where SEND, Admissions and transport work together and communicate effectively to ensure the experience for the family is joined up and seamless journey.</p> <p>This should include journey times being factored into placement decisions and communicated with the transport team at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Ongoing as part of SEN Recovery Plan</p>	<p>We continue to work with our colleagues across SEND and admissions and attend key meetings to ensure we are included earlier in conversations and that Transport is a consideration.</p> <p>Working with our colleagues within Analytics is supporting the timeliness of sharing information which is helping to support the SST&amp;AT to schedule in work and prepare for future weeks / months. This will continue to build as we approach our busier period.</p> <p>Training regarding Travel assistance has been developed and is in the process of being uploaded to our online training portal and will be mandatory for all SEN case workers to undertake. This will help to educate workers of the transport process, our statutory duties, and processes that we adhere to within the service.</p>
<p><b>5. Family Voice:</b> To have clear guidance on how you intend to adhere to the recommended statutory timescales (max journey of 45 mins for primary and max 75 mins for secondary) whenever possible, and assurance that these times won't be exceeded by adding too many children to a route.</p> <p>This should include journey times being factored into placement decisions and communicated with the transport team at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Completed Review and Ongoing monitoring</p>	<p>Routes continue to be planned, supporting statutory timescales, with the planning software we have available to us.</p> <p>We continue to work with families, educational settings, and operators to provide us with feedback on journey times and where timescales have been exceeded and a review will be undertaken. Consideration is taken to outside influences such as road works, traffic congestion, weather conditions, loading and unloading of passengers etc. All concerns</p>

			<p>raised are dealt with in a timely manner to provide alternative solutions where appropriate.</p> <p>We continue to monitor this carefully as our data and information systems improve.</p>
6.	<p>Information should be readily available to families about what to do in the instance that the child's driver changes suddenly or frequently.</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should happen if there are changes.</li> <li>• How should changes be communicated to families (by who and within what timescales)</li> <li>• What to do if there are frequent changes</li> <li>• How to escalate concerns or request a change</li> </ul>	Complete	<p>Where possible for existing passengers who access their educational settings via contracted transport, where possible, transport will be the same or similar. There will be occasions where we will need to change a service, or where arrangements may change.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the operator if there are any changes to transport to families and SST&amp;AT. This information to families is contained in the new Operational Guide.</p>
7.	<p>Initiate a working party to ensure that children accessing alternative provision or EOTAS have transport in place this will ensure children who are receiving this type of provision are able to attend their education setting and receive the education they are entitled to without unnecessary delays. (Explore ITA's, SEND team budget, who is responsible)</p>	Complete	<p>We have approached the review of how we assess and delivery travel solutions to our Alternative Learning Placements (ALPs) by engaging with both the operational SEND teams and through a consultation process which was set up for the provisions themselves. We have identified several inconsistencies with the existing process which escalated over time due to little oversight of the process, from the assessment of eligibility through to the type of travel assistance agreed and put in place.</p> <p>Through this review, and to improve the consistency of decision-making, we have provided clarity on circumstances where travel assistance is provided and instances where the Authority will not provide it.</p> <p>Discussions with the operational teams and provision have now been complete and a new framework has been agreed which has now been introduced.</p>
8.	<p>To have preparation for adulthood in mind for all young people and ensure families are aware of the independent travel training offer and can consider this for their young person where appropriate. To look at existing public transport routes and commission more routes to enable young people to travel independently if they are able to.</p>	Complete	<p>Independent travel training (ITT) remains a key focus as a travel assistance offering. Training has been developed for the team at the point of eligibility to see if ITT would be a suitable offering. Conversations are starting earlier with families around suitability along with access to public transport links to support the requirement for the pupil.</p> <p>We recently launched an online self-referral form which was sign posted in a recent communication piece sent to our year 10 &amp; 11 cohort. Please follow this link to the self-referral form <a href="https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/independent-travel-training-self-referral">Independent Travel Training self-referral - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)</a>.</p> <p>We continue to work with our colleagues from Surrey Choices to help promote this offering and hope to gain some further insight from our colleagues within the Youth Participation Group on how this offering is perceived by young people and how they might be able to help us in driving this offering forward.</p>

## Join up of SEND and H2ST Processes

64. Reassuring families that they are aware of the key points regarding travel assistance is an ongoing aim and we are encouraged that the SEND end-to-end review will establish learning around decision-making and highlight the key communication points where families and the Authority intersect. This will enable guidance relating to travel assistance to be communicated earlier and frequently during the assessment and Key Stage Transfer process, in-light of the Council's vision for children and young people to be educated closer to home, with plans around the increase in school places,

### **Post-16**

65. We have attended a number of Post-16 Commissioning Panels and provided prospective travel assistance costs where requested. We have also engaged with Commissioning colleagues on a number of placements with a potential high travel cost.

### **Under 5 Assessments**

66. We have been liaising with colleagues in Early Years and Commissioning and it is recognised that for Key Stage Transfer 2025, decisions around placements will require input from the SSTAT, particularly in respect of travel costs.

### **Future plans**

- Continued input into the SEND End-to-End review.
- Wider representation at decision-making panels, providing travel costs to influence placement decisions.
- Termly meetings with SEND Area Managers

## Program of works

67. While the H2ST Oversight Board concluded in September 2023, the Service has continued on its improvement journey with a program of works monitoring the longer-term objectives from the Learning Review in November 2022. This is a continuation of the significant change programme that we anticipate will run until September 2025. The majority of our initiatives will continue to evolve as part of our continual improvement approach and learning framework.

	Area of work	Status	Update
1.	Travel Assistance Policies	Partially complete	Post-16 statement issued April 2024. Statutory school age policy refresh due late summer.
2.	Route planning system review	Complete	Undertaken by Freedom to Travel working with external consultants Peopletoo.
3.	Operational Guide	Complete	Issued to families who are eligible for transport in the form of contracted vehicles (taxi, minibus), starting their placements either mid-year or September 2024 and beyond.
4.	Mandatory training for SEND colleagues	Modules complete (launch due July 2024)	Produced Olive training for SEND colleagues and other internal staff where appropriate.
5.	Under 16 application form	Ongoing	Designed and being built by colleagues in IT&D. Improved automation of outcomes, shorter form for families and quicker assessments.
6.	Parent Guide with Family Voice	In progress	Due to be reissued mid-June
7.	Schools Guide	Ongoing	Includes general transport guidance and expectations around travel for schools and colleges.
8.	Further automation	Not started	Improving the efficiency of communications from transport officers to families awaiting travel arrangements for September 2024
9.	Self-serve exploration	Ongoing	Explore the option of introducing a self-service/application and appeals portal for families to improve automation and reduce customer contact and enquiries
10.	Independent Travel Training	Partially complete	Agreement to extend the current ITT contract by a further year while working with Freedom to Travel on a long-term plan for the provision.
11.	How-to guides	Not started	To aid understanding of both eligibility and appeals for families.
12.	Up-front offering of a PTB	Ongoing	Providing eligible families with an up-front calculation of the PB amount they would be eligible for, with increased marketing around the scheme.





## Route planning review and market testing

68. In response to recommendation 5 from Select Committee held in December, aligning with the original proposal, Freedom to Travel, working with an external consultancy firm (Peopletoo) undertook a program of works between October 2023 and December 2023 which included a full review of required functionality for route planning, a review of alternative market providers and identification of a number of modules and features within Mobisoft which are available which SCC are not utilising.

69. A key recommendation is that “SCC reviews and improves current contract management practices to maximise officers using the full range of module functionality from the Mobisoft platform.”

70. Freedom to Travel have also undertaken a high-level project to map out key systems and interfaces. In the interim, they have been working with the Service to implement a number of key service and operational enhancements including Active Travel and Independent Travel Training.

A separate review of the ADAM DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) is currently underway.

Digital Transport Platform Review	
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Through delivering the Freedom to Travel project, the Council wishes to assess to what extent current digital transport platforms can be streamlined to strengthen independent travel and drive service efficiencies, contributing towards reducing the £80m budget delivering the Council's commissioning model, whilst concurrently maintaining full functionality and interface requirements.</p> 	
<p><b>Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Current digital transport platforms, platform functionality and internal and external systems used across the various SCC transport teams were identified and mapped.</li> <li> A new outline digital transport functionality requirements document was written which sets out both the current and future functionality of the Council's transport teams to inform any future re-procurement exercise.</li> <li> A market engagement exercise was also delivered. Digital transport platform suppliers were invited to demo their platforms to enable the Council to assess to what degree the current market offering could meet the Council's Freedom to Travel programme objectives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the immediate term, module functionality should be maximised and implemented in the Mobisoft platform. Following this (next 0-3 months), it is recommended to assess to what extent the platform meets the Children, Families &amp; Lifelong Learning Service's requirements by reviewing functionality with that of the outline functionality document collated for this project.</li> <li>• Concurrently, as part of the Strategic Transport Group's review of the value for money of the Padam digital transport platform, it is recommended to keep communications open with Via to assess whether this platform will extend current functionality in the next 12 months.</li> <li>• The outcomes of these recommendations would then be used to inform the scope of a re-procurement exercise for a new digital transport platform in the next 3-6 months, with the re-procurement expected to commence by April 2024 to meet the current Mobisoft contract termination date of March 2025. As the Padam contract terminates in December 2025, officers will need to have reached a decision as to the feasibility of incorporating the specification of the Padam contract (with a delayed date of commencement included) in the same timescales.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Findings</b></p> <p>The market engagement exercise showed that the Via digital transport platform appears to most closely match the strategic objectives of the Freedom to Travel programme by optimising and commingling drivers, vehicles and routes to most efficiently transport passengers. However, this platform does not yet have invoicing, contract management and eligibility functionality. Therefore, no single digital transport platform yet has the full functionality the Council requires to fulfil the objectives of the Freedom to Travel programme.</p>	<p><b>Which corporate objectives does the programme support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Tackling health inequality</li> <li>• Enabling a greener future</li> <li>• Empowering communities</li> <li>• Delivering service improvement</li> </ul>

## 71. Challenges and Risks

We have outlined what we feel are challenges facing the Service as we approach the summer holiday and into the autumn term.

Risk arising around:	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigations	Owner
<p><b>Upstream Pressures:</b> sub-categories likely to impact H2STA service are as follows (c. 35% of SEN CYP require travel assistance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large numbers of CYPs currently under assessment for EHCP</li> <li>• Phase 1 of the SEN Recovery plan is currently seeing SEND demand move into H2STA earlier than we had anticipated.</li> <li>• Phase 2 will result in a significant volume of applications moving through the system earlier than our trajectory modelling had profiled. This will materially impact in-year and the MTFS.</li> <li>• Tribunal cases and further new cases will continue to enter the system</li> </ul> <p>These will impact operational demand (in addition to the c.35% which is in-year rather than seasonal), and potentially our finances. Those CYP unallocated school placements may result in EOTAS packages being put together which may mean an increase in individual transport arrangements.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End to end Working group across the system; weekly KST working group and data sharing between Admissions, SEND and H2STA for pre-work.</li> <li>• Using the data we have available to work early with families and look at expediting eligibility.</li> <li>• Focussing on early resolution through direct working with families and comms across the end-to-end system.</li> <li>• Simplified policy and website to support clarity for our customers.</li> <li>• Monthly monitoring and trajectory work for H2STA demand, operational impact, and finances, informed by current data, figures and plans from upstream colleagues.</li> <li>• Ascertain any specific work or activities from Education colleagues and plan resource re-allocation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Despite several key activities this remains our most significant pressure with increasing pupil numbers to placements where solos are necessary.</b></p>	Julia Katherine/ Gerry Hughes
<p><b>Finance:</b> A +/- 1% of the budgeted future demand or inflation is equal to c.£300k change in spend. Budgeted inflation for 23/24 was 5% and SEND demand growth in H2STA was forecast at 5.4%. We have a number of initiatives to manage demand and inflation but if levels are higher than these assumptions it will place pressure on the in-year position and the MTFS.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live monitoring incl upstream future demand</li> <li>• Long term trajectory modelling and linking to anticipated trends from SEND on the recovery plan phasing of demand.</li> <li>• Review of our Dynamic Purchasing System.</li> </ul>	Gerry Hughes/ Matt Marsden

<p><b>Suppliers:</b> Supplier and driver shortages are a national issue, with numbers lower than pre-pandemic levels. There is also scarcity of new vehicles (wait times of over 16 months reported). These conditions are creating a lack of competition, higher costs, and difficulty with longer term planning. This is an area of significant concern across the country with limited number of quick fixes.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop long-term supplier strategy.</li> <li>• Promotion of Independent Travel &amp; benefits.</li> <li>• Actively working with Community providers.</li> </ul>	Freedom to Travel Programme
<p><b>Reduction in Fixed Term Staff</b> In October 2022 the then Oversight Board granted 5 x additional staff to support the transformation of the service. This has been pivotal in the work the service has undertaken. It is recommended that the service continue with these staff and will endeavour to make additional savings in order to retain a cost neutral approach in the staff budget.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service to make additional savings over and above the required £2.6m efficiencies to enable them to keep the additional resource (£250k).</li> <li>• Need to have resource to undertake efficiency work.</li> </ul>	Gerry Hughes
<p><b>Appeals will increase over summer period without resource to hear.</b> Increase in Appeals owing to more stringent application of policy (Post 16 and Under 5's) may lead to appeals not compliant with SLA.  Specific resource issue around Clerking, Member presence and review of appeal and background.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service have employed (bank) their own clerk to enable panels to be administered appropriately.</li> <li>• Select Committee to be updated on the lack of Members available for panels and to ask for further support.</li> <li>• Other members of the team have been trained to undertake Appeals and can be moved to support any increase in volume (imperative to have a separation of duty for appeal work).</li> </ul>	Gerry Hughes



## Conclusions:

72. While the Oversight Board finished in December 2023, the Service has continued on its improvement trajectory with providing timely outcomes to families, via application assessments, appeals and complaints, updating the monthly CFLL Compendium which is provided to Senior Leadership Team. The Oversight Board will be re-instated this month to specifically review service transformation and costs.
73. Development has continued at pace, encompassing analysis and evaluation, communications, system improvement, policy refreshment and design, digital development, and automation. The breadth of continued change across the Service has been outlined in this report.
74. We have increased the scope of our stakeholder engagement work with families while broadening out to young people with additional needs, with further plans to centre their perspectives. Increased school visits and building key relationships.
75. Budgetary pressure remains an ongoing concern, particularly in respect of SEND where children and young people are educated significant distances from home with associated high travel costs. Whilst Surrey has significant budget pressure the spend within other authorities is commensurate with our planning, in most cases the cost per pupil is significantly more than within Surrey suggesting our efficiency and planning processes are comparable and better in some cases. We constantly monitor and speak to our comparable authorities to share best practice.
76. The Team has explored and has mapped several avenues for cost avoidance through efficiency streams outlined in this report and has created an appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanism with colleagues in Finance.
77. Continued governance of the travel assistance improvement and program of works via the monthly CFLL Compendium and weekly communications from Gerry Hughes (to Clare Curran, Maureen Atwell, David Lewis and senior officers) highlighting risks, mitigations, and good news stories. The update communication has shifted to weekly during peak season (from May onwards). A new Oversight Board has been initiated to continue to review the service transformation and review budget on a monthly basis. Any member who would like to visit the team and have a more detailed overview are welcome.
78. Member availability for panels remains a challenge and we thank those members who make themselves available regularly for panels. We politely request more members to become involved in this important decision-making process.

## Contact

Gerry Hughes, Assistant Director Support Services  
Chris McShee, Travel & Assessment Team Manager (Stakeholder Liaison)  
Matthew Winnett, Travel & Assessment Team Manager (Delivery & Assessment)  
Clare Wiggin-Feak, Travel & Assessment Team Manager (Customer Relations)  
Deborah Hunt, Senior Project Manager (Transformation)

## Sources/background papers

Budget monitoring Terms of Reference [Terms of Reference](#)  
Under 5 FAQ – Local Offer - [Under 5s FAQ](#)  
SSTAT Service Updates Page - [Service Updates](#)  
Travel Assistance Operational Guide - [Travel Assistance Operational Guide.pdf](#)  
Post-16 Policy Statement: [Post-16 Policy Statement](#)  
[General Feedback Survey link](#) -



ATCO PT Survey  
2023 Report FINAL.pc

## Compendiums

CFLL Compendium December 2023 - [Compendium 12.23.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium January 2024 - [Compendium 01.24.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium February 2024 - [Compendium 02.24.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium March 2024 - [Compendium 03.24.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium April 2024 - [Compendium 04.24.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium May 2024 - [Compendium 05.24.pdf](#)  
CFLL Compendium June 2024 - [Compendium 06.24.pdf](#)

## Appendix A

### Survey Analysis

Post-16 Travel Allowance Survey - [Post-16 Travel Allowance survey - analysis.pptx](#)  
Rolling General Feedback Survey - [Survey](#)  
Supplier Forum - [Presentation and Analysis](#)  
Personal Travel Budget - [Personal Travel Budget feedback.pptx](#)

## Appendix B

### Key Communication Points

An overview of some of the key communication points that a family may encounter throughout their travel assistance journey along with any timescales and how we communicate key information to them.

Communications type	Timescale	Method
General enquiry	5 working days Urgent queries – we aim to respond within 24 hours.	Online enquiry form
General Service Updates	Updated termly	Local Offer SCC transport webpages

FAQs	Reviewed termly	Available on the SCC website
Notifying a family of their application	Immediately once application has been submitted	Auto-response from application confirming receipt
Confirming outcome of an application	20 working days	Auto-response from application
Summer Review of Transport	June – August	Reviewing education settings individually before communicating arrangements to families
Confirming travel arrangements	September start: up to 7 days before the start of term  In-year: 10 working days	Taxi: gov.uk email confirming transport operator  Public transport: passes posted to family.  ITA: family complete online BACS form.
Stage one travel assistance appeal	20 working days	Auto-response from application confirming receipt
Stage two travel assistance appeal	40 working days	Email confirming receipt and letter confirming date and time of appeal
Health questionnaire notification (for CYP who present with complex health and/or medical needs)	Within 20-day application assessment	Auto-response confirming requirement to complete form and email confirming receipt.
Online payment form	Link issued in auto-response if family selects ITA	Confirmation email that payment details have been received

Service Communications Plan 2024 - [Master H2STA Comms Plan 2024.xlsx](#)

H2STA families' journey (graphic) - [H2STA families journey.vsdX](#)

## Appendix C

Code of Conduct - <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/transport/existing-users/code-of-conduct-and-behaviour-standards>

Behaviour Standards - <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/transport/existing-users/code-of-conduct-and-behaviour-standards#standards>

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# Home to School Transport: Update for the Select Committee

July 2024

# Progress and Updates

There has been progress with home to school transport since we attended the Select Committee in December 2023.

Over the next few slides we will update you on the progress that has been achieved with the 8 recommendations we made following our survey in November 2023.

# Progress

We are pleased that our relationship with the home to school transport team has continued to strengthen. We meet with them monthly and are able to have honest conversations.

They are keen to develop their relationship with parent carers through engagement events and communication.

They have been far more efficient with their communication to families and are being forward thinking in terms of planning which should be celebrated.

## Recommendation 1: Timely Communication

To have a clear and robust roadmap of how the current application/assessment and delivery processes are going to be significantly changed to ensure that families are not:

- Left without transport at the start of term
  - That families are given a fair and timely decision
- That families have regular communication and updates throughout the process at different stages of the year.
- That families are given clear and consistent information about the specific transport arrangements **at least 7 days before the start of term** so that they can prepare their child or young person.

To have a robust communication process which should include a central one point of contact email address and telephone number that parents can contact the transport team on. There should be clear timescales of when parents will receive a response. (e.g. 48 hours for a call back and 5 working days for an email) This information should be on the automated email response, displayed on the website and be on all communication sent out to parents. There should also be a clear escalation route included in this information should a response not be received within the specified timescales. There should also be a separate safeguarding contact method that can be used in situations where an urgent response is required. (More details on this are in recommendation 3)

## UPDATE:

We are pleased that a commitment has been made that for applications received by the 31<sup>st</sup> July families will receive notification of the specific transport arrangements at least 7 days prior to the start of term.

We have been working with the team on the revision of the parent guide. This is an excellent resource and contains the key information in an accessible format. Unfortunately this has only been finalised at the end of June. This means that it was not ready for families to access prior to applying for transport. This means that families this year may have missed crucial information. We do however feel it will be an excellent resource for next years cohorts.

There have been significant challenges with children under statutory school age who are starting reception. Communication surrounding eligibility was not given at the right time and this has had a huge impact on families. (Please see slides 9-12 for more information)



## Recommendation 2: Safeguarding & Safety

To have a clear and transparent information available to families about the training and safeguarding checks drivers receive prior to driving children. This should also detail refresher training and checks

A clear and transparent process of how to report concerns about drivers or PA's or incidents with other children and the process that follows this. This should include clear timescales and how to escalate if this is not followed.

Clear steps and guidance on measures to keep children safe to include;

Car seats

Drivers use of mobile phones

Seatbelts

Information about a child passed to the driver

To implement a safeguarding contact line that parent carers and schools can report urgent safeguarding concerns about transport (driver or other occupants) These concerns should be responded to within 24 hours and dealt within 5 working days depending on the level of risk.

Guidance should be put together to demonstrate how parents and carers and schools will be kept up to date and the process they will follow.

### UPDATE:

We are pleased that more detailed information has now been included in the revised parent guide. We are also pleased to see that there is an option on the online enquiry form to report a safeguarding concern and a commitment to respond to these within 24 hours.

We are also reassured to learn that a revised operation guide that was launched in April has a section on service standards.

We will monitor this over the coming months and hope to see a reduction in reports from parents regarding safeguarding.

**Recommendation 3:  
Collaboration and  
Communication**

To develop a robust process where SEND, Admissions and transport work together and communicate effectively to ensure the experience for the family is joined up and seamless journey.

This should include journey times being factored in to placement decisions and communicated with the transport team at the earliest opportunity

**UPDATE:**  
Whilst we have seen some improvements in this area there is still a long way to go to really ensure all services are joined up. The issues with the under 5's has really highlighted a huge gap in collaboration between the SEND, admissions team and transport team when finding placements - communication to families should include details of transport including under 5's and post 16.

**Recommendation 4:  
Journey Times**

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to the recommended statutory timescales (max journey of 45 mins for primary and max 75 mins for secondary) whenever possible, and assurance that these times won't be exceeded by adding too many children to a route.

This should include journey times being factored into placement decisions and communicated with the transport team at the earliest opportunity.

**UPDATE:**  
We have been assured that they will continue to work out the routes with the statutory timescales in mind.  
  
We will monitor this over the next academic term.

**Recommendation 5:  
Consistency**

Information should be readily available to families about what to do in the instance that the child's driver changes suddenly or frequently.

This should include:  
what should happen if there are changes  
How should changes be communicated to families (by who and within what timescales)  
What to do if there are frequent changes  
How to escalate concerns or request a change

**UPDATE:** We are pleased that more detailed information has been added to the FAQ's on the website and in the newly revised parent guide.  
  
We will monitor this over the coming months.

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## Recommendation 6: Alternative Provision & EOTAS

Initiate a working party to ensure that children accessing alternative provision or EOTAS have transport in place this will ensure children who are receiving this type of provision are able to attend their education setting and receive the education they are entitled to without unnecessary delays. (Explore ITA's, SEND team budget, who is responsible)

**UPDATE:** We are pleased to hear that a full review has taken place to explore this and we have received the following feedback:

Discussions with the operational teams have now been complete and a new framework has been agreed which has now been introduced.

- Discussion with the ALPS and consultative meeting taken place to outline the process. Eligible children can utilise transport at the start and end of the school day.
- Exam timetables - some transport will be available for the start, middle and end of the school day. Some provisions will make their own arrangements for pupils to go home after the end of the exams that fall outside of this.
- In discussion some units will transition more slowly to change transport arrangements at the start of the new academic year.
- A2E packages that are not named in the EHCP and consequently pupils will not be eligible for travel assistance, it is suggested that the Case Officer has the initial conversation around getting that child to the agreed placement as it is parental responsibility. This should be the first discussion point.
- However, it is also acknowledged that this may be a challenge, and to ensure we meet our Section 19 obligations we may offer a personal travel budget (PTB) by way of support to the families to get their children to and from those provisions.
- Transport will only be provided with families who have extenuating circumstances.

**Recommendation 7:  
Independent Travel  
Allowance**

Complete a benchmarking exercise to look at other LA's and how much they reimburse families.

This could be an opportunity to increase the take up of an ITA, reduce financial hardship, build trust, reduce transport costs, reduce safeguarding concerns and support alternative provision

**UPDATE:**  
We are aware of work surrounding this looking at personal travel budgets to take into consideration the individual circumstances and medical needs which is a welcome change.

We are awaiting a further update on how this work is progressing, but we are very positive that this is being looked at. We will also gather feedback from families as to its effectiveness and the impact it has had.

**Recommendation 8:  
Preparation for  
Adulthood**

To have preparation for adulthood in mind for all young people and ensure families are aware of the independent travel training offer and can consider this for their young person where appropriate. To look at existing public transport routes and commission more routes to enable young people to travel independently if they are able to.

**UPDATE:**  
We are pleased to see that a self referral form has now been developed. This is a great addition and we hope it will allow more young people to access this.

We would like to see more promotion of travel training as our understanding is that the take up is still very low. We will work with the transport team on how we can support the promotion of this.

# Challenges

Some of the challenges that have arisen since the last Select Committee meeting...

# Under 5's Starting Reception

This year the home to school transport team took a more robust approach to their statutory duty in line with their policy.

Unfortunately, this meant that families with children who were starting reception but were under the statutory school age (but would be eligible the term following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday) were left in a stressful situation as this had not been communicated to them prior to the placement being agreed.

This has highlighted an urgent need for SEND, Admissions and transport to work closely together. The SEND and Admissions team need to take transport into consideration and discussing it with families prior to a placement being agreed and named in a plan as it is the overall LA's responsibility to ensure children and young people can get to their education placement.

# Under 5's Starting Reception:

## What are the challenges?

Lack of consideration for transport within the SEND & Admissions teams when naming a placement for children under statutory school age.

Lack of communication to families around the process and eligibility.

Lack of collaboration between SEND team, admissions team and H2ST team prior to placements being finalised.

FVS's understanding was that historically under 5's starting reception have been allocated transport.

The extenuating circumstances were not clear.

Risk of children being unable to get to their school.



# Under 5's Starting Reception: A Way Forward...

FVS met with the home to school transport team on a number of occasions between March and May 2024 following feedback from parent carers who had their transport application declined. Given the circumstances we asked the transport team to consider revoking their stance on this for this year and that although we didn't agree with this aspect of the policy, we are aware it is not a statutory duty and would support them with the communication of this next year, to ensure parent carers are fully aware prior to a placement being finalised.

Following these meetings, it was agreed that because the more robust stance on this area of the policy had not been effectively communicated to parent carers prior to the placement being finalised that as a compromise for this year they would:

Produce some relaxed parameters for assessing appeals for the under 5's.

Make the extenuating circumstances that are considered clearer.

Review all of the appeals that had been received for this cohort against the revised parameters.



# Impact

FVS although disappointed that the stance was not being fully revoked, we did welcome and appreciate the compromise that had been offered.

We heard from the transport team that following the review of appeals using the updated parameters 13 cases were subsequently awarded transport and 14 were upheld.

We are not aware of how many of the 14 went onto a stage 2 appeal or what the outcomes of those were.

We were pleased that updated and explicit information regarding the under 5's was included in the updated parent guide. We have also suggested that this guide is given to all parents at draft EHCP stage.

# Post 16

As with the under 5's this year the home to school transport team took a more robust approach to their statutory duty for post 16 transport in line with their policy.

This has meant that an increased amount of families have had transport declined. This has created a lot of stress and confusion.

## Post 16:



# What are the challenges?

Lack of consideration for transport within the SEND & Admissions teams when naming a placement for post 16.

Lack of communication to families around the process and eligibility.

Lack of collaboration between SEND team, admissions team and H2ST team prior to placements being finalised.

A much more robust stance to previous years.

The extenuating circumstances were not clear.

Risk of young people being unable to get to their education placement.

# Post 16

The home to school transport team have taken huge steps to increase awareness and communication of the statutory duty change when a young person moves into post 16. Whilst there is still more to be done it should be acknowledged that this is an area that a lot of progress has occurred. There is still a lack of joined up working between SEND and transport and the conversations around placement and transport are not happening early enough. FVS have asked the transport team to attend an engagement event with parent carers to explain more about post 16 transport and answer questions we are delighted that this has been embraced and senior managers have all committed their time to join this is hugely appreciated and shows a real desire from the team to speak to families and support in the best way possible.

## The next steps we have identified for this cohort are:

Transport team to join an engagement event for parent carers on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Make the extenuating circumstances that are considered clearer.

Finalise the post 16 parent guide and include this with annual reviews and KST paperwork.

## Next Steps...

Closely monitor the parent carer experience over the summer months and feedback any challenges and themes to the home to school transport team.

Continue to monitor the roll out of the new processes aligned to the recommendations and report any issues to the home to school transport team.

Rather than take on individual case work which is not our remit nor do we have capacity to do so. Instead we have requested some regular engagement sessions throughout the summer that parent carers can book onto to speak with the transport team directly.

Ensure families are given the revised parent guide at the earliest opportunity - they should be given this at draft EHCP stage and prior to placements being finalised it should also be given with Key stage transfer paperwork.

Continue to work closely with the home to school transport team and feed in the lived experience.

Re-run our survey in the Autumn term to get an understanding of progress. Report the findings to the home to school transport team and Select Committee members.



**Questions?**

Leanne Henderson, Participation Manager, Family Voice Surrey  
[Leanne.h@familyvoicesurrey.org](mailto:Leanne.h@familyvoicesurrey.org)



Tuesday, 30 July 2024

## **Corporate Parenting Annual Report and Annual Performance Report 2022-2023**

### **Purpose of report:**

This report provides the key performance data for year ending March 2023 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally.

The Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board has been provided as a separate report.

### **Introduction**

1. On 28 July 2020 it was agreed that the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Select Committee would receive an annual report in relation to the delivery of Corporate Parenting within Surrey County Council.
2. In order to provide comparative data within the report, it was agreed to present the Department for Education (DfE) benchmarking data. The current data covers the reporting period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023.
3. This means the data you are reviewing is over fourteen months old. We are currently collating data for 23/24 and the service has continued to develop the areas of challenge and improvement. As the committee will be aware, we have had a particular focus on our Children's Homes which has led to improved Ofsted outcomes and workforce retention, both of which impact on the outcomes for children. Whilst we have yet to see an increase in overall numbers of Foster Carers recruitment and retention which continues to be an area of priority.

## **The key performance data for year ending March 2023 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally**

4. The key performance data for the Council in relation to Looked After Children can be found in the attached report entitled *Annex 1: Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information*; this report will be referred to as the Annex 1 report within this document. The performance intelligence team have undertaken a comparison of the data, from 2021/22 with that of 2022/23 including data from statistical neighbours and national performance.
5. Local authorities submit data for children who have been looked after during the year, but the DFE (Department for Education) publish data predominantly for those that have been looked after for 12 months or more.

## **Looked After Children performance data and comparisons**

6. Slides 2 and 3 of the Annex 1 report show that as of the 31 March 2023 the number of Looked After Children (CLA) by Surrey County Council was 1013, which was a decrease of 3.3% from the previous year. This resulted in a slight decrease in the rate of children per 10,000 when compared to 2022. This decrease has continued through 23/24 and reflects the work undertaken as part of both the Family Safeguarding model and of the Reunification Service. Surrey County Council continues to have lower rates of Looked After Children than both statistical neighbours and nationally.
7. Slide 4 shows the data for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and reveals that the percentage of UASC increased by 3% between 2022 and 2023, rising from 119 in March 2022 to 143 by 31 March 2023. This is a similar picture to that seen by statistical neighbours and nationally. This increase was in part driven by the Home Office opening a number of hotels in Surrey and a number of individuals initially placed as adults subsequently claimed to be children. This practice has not continued in 23/24 and indeed our numbers of children have dropped this year. Surrey remains committed to the National Transfer Scheme which is the mechanism which supports port authorities to transfer children across the UK.



8. The majority of Surrey County Council's Looked After Children, as of 31 March 2022, were placed with foster carers although this decreased from 68% in 2022 to 67% in 2023 (Slide 5).
9. For Surrey County Council's Looked After Children living in children's homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) the percentage has remained the same in 2023 at 20%. For our statistical neighbours there was a slight decrease and nationally there was a slight increase. This data supports our approach to use foster carers as the first option for the majority of children.
10. Select Committee members will be aware we have discussed Sufficiency on a number of occasions. I have attached below the last three papers submitted to give further detail on the plans we have for increasing appropriate homes for children in Surrey.



Fostering  
Sufficiency.pdf



CFLI Select  
Committee Report - CTargets September 20



80% Sufficiency

11. Slide 6 shows that for children placed for adoption, Surrey saw an increase for adoptive placements. Our statistical neighbours and nationally there was a 0.9% and 0.2% decrease, respectively. Surrey County Council have lower numbers of adoptions in comparison to statistical neighbours and nationally, and we also have lower numbers of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs). In general terms Adoption and SGOs are a positive outcome for children however the decisions are all unique to the child and family's circumstances and require the agreement of the court.
12. Slide 7 shows that the proportion of Surrey County Council's Looked After Children placed within 20 miles of their home address has decreased by 5%, from 56% in 2022 to 51% in 2023. The proportion of Looked After Children living over 20 miles from their home address has increased by 2.0% for Surrey children, a reduction of 5% for statistical neighbours whilst nationally the figure has remained the same. Surrey differs from the national performance data, however, is very similar to statistical neighbours. When this is considered in context, Surrey is a large geographical area surrounded by other local

authorities and we are in the unusual position where keeping children in Surrey can mean moving them over 20 miles away, whereas moving them out of county could be a much closer option. For instance, Oxted to Farnham is 41 miles, whereas Oxted to Westerham, Kent, is 3.4 miles.

13. Slide 8 indicates that there was a slight decrease in the number of Looked After Children living within Surrey, as of 31 March 2023. This percentage was 51% compared to 52% in 2022. For those Looked After Children living outside the boundaries of Surrey, the percentage has slightly increased from 48% in 2022 to 49% in 2023.
14. Slide 9 shows that the number of Looked After Children with an up-to-date Dental Check is similar to 2022, decreasing slightly from 85% in 2022 to 84% in 2023. Positively, Surrey fares well when compared to both statistical neighbours (79%) and nationally (76%).
15. In Surrey, in terms of completed Health Assessments, there was a 3% increase from 84% in 2022 to 87% in 2023 (Slide 10). Whilst statistical neighbours increased (91%) and nationally remained the same (89%). Surrey was lower than statistical neighbours and slightly below the national average.
16. Immunisation checks decreased from 93% in 2022 to 84% in 2023 however this remains robust performance when compared with statistical neighbours and nationally.
17. For Looked After Children under 5 years old and continuously looked after for 12 months or more, there has been a decrease in developmental checks.
18. Slide 11 shows that Surrey was in touch with 96% of its 17–18-year-old care leavers and 95% of its 19–21-year-old care leavers. This is a slight increase of 3% for both age groups and above our statistical neighbours for both age groups.
19. Slide 12 shows, for the first time, information on care leavers aged 22-25. Surrey were in touch with 36% of 22-25-year-olds. Slightly higher than our statistical neighbours but in line nationally.

20. Slide 13 shows that of the care leavers Surrey were in touch with, 94% of 17–18-year-olds were in suitable accommodation and 91% of 19–21-year-olds were in suitable accommodation. For both age groups, Surrey was higher than our statistical neighbours and nationally.
21. Slide 14 shows that of the care leavers Surrey were in touch with, 72% of 17–18-year-olds were in education, employment, or training and 58% of 19–21-year-olds were in education, employment, or training. For 17–18-year-olds, this is higher than our statistical neighbours (66%) and national (66%). For 19–21-year-olds, Surrey are slightly below statistical neighbours (59%) and above national (56%). The Corporate Parenting Board set up a task and finish group to look at the success and barriers for care leavers not in education and employment. The recommendations can be found [here](#).
22. Slide 15 provides the overview of Surrey County Council's performance and comparisons for Looked After Children. There are two main sections of the Children Act 1989 that covers how children enter care. Through the courts i.e. S.38 and interim care order or via S.20 which is with the agreement of or at the request of the parents or those holding PR. S.20 tends to be used for shorter periods or older children. The overview shows that for those children entering Care in 2023, those entering Care through the granting of interim Care Orders (ICOs) remained the same at 18% in 2023. This is lower than our statistical neighbours (26%) and nationally (31%), whereas those entering Care through section 20 is much higher; with Surrey using section 20 for 75% in 2023. Statistical neighbours used section 20 for 61% entering care and nationally used Section 20 for 56% entering Care.
23. The use of Section 20 as opposed to the use of ICOs suggests that Surrey County Council is less likely to enter care proceedings, less likely to seek an ICO (Interim Care Orders), or less likely to be granted an ICO than both statistical neighbours and nationally. In addition, this approach would also be in line with that of the family safeguarding model, where there is an effort made to work in partnership with the family to address the concerns. The increase in unaccompanied children also in part explains this difference as they all remain under S.20.

24. In terms of legal status on 31<sup>st</sup> March, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of children subject to Interim Care Orders (S.38) at 15% and a 1% increase in Full Care Orders (S.31), rising from 49% in 2022 to 50% in 2023.
25. Surrey County Council's Looked After Children with confirmed substance misuse increased from 1% in 2022 to 5% in 2023. In the last year we have robustly reviewed this indicator as we previously felt we may have not identified all the children for whom substance misuse has been a difficulty.
26. For Surrey County Council's Looked After Children who had a strength and difficulties questionnaire completed, there was a significant decrease from 95% in 2022 to 67% in 2023. A strength and difficulties questionnaire is completed annually for each child, it screens children for emotional and behavioural difficulties, allowing us to measure progress but also to seek more formal, clinical consultation and support where necessary.
27. Details of our Sufficiency Strategy for Placements for Looked After Children and Care Leavers can be found here: [Surrey Sufficiency Strategy](#).

## Conclusions

28. The performance data, both when compared from 2022 to 2023 in general demonstrates some improvements and small decreases in some indicators.
29. The exception to this is Looked After Children placed over 20 miles from their family home, and the percentage placed outside Surrey. Whilst this has been the picture for many local authorities Surrey started at a lower base. It is however key when considering this information that the geographical size of Surrey, along with the number of counties it borders is recognised.

## Recommendations

30. The Select Committee notes the Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information in relation to Looked After Children (Annex 1) and Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report (Annex 2).
31. The Select Committee are to receive a report next year which will include:

- a) any relevant national policy developments that impact Corporate Parenting, including any updates in relation to the *independent review of children's social care in England*.
  - b) the key performance data for year ending March 2024 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally; and,
32. The Select Committee to agree that the development of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board can be provided as a separate report.

<b>Report information</b>
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**Sources/background papers**

*Annex 1: Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information*

*Annex 2: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023-24*

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# Annex 1

## Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information 2022-23

# Rate of Looked After Children

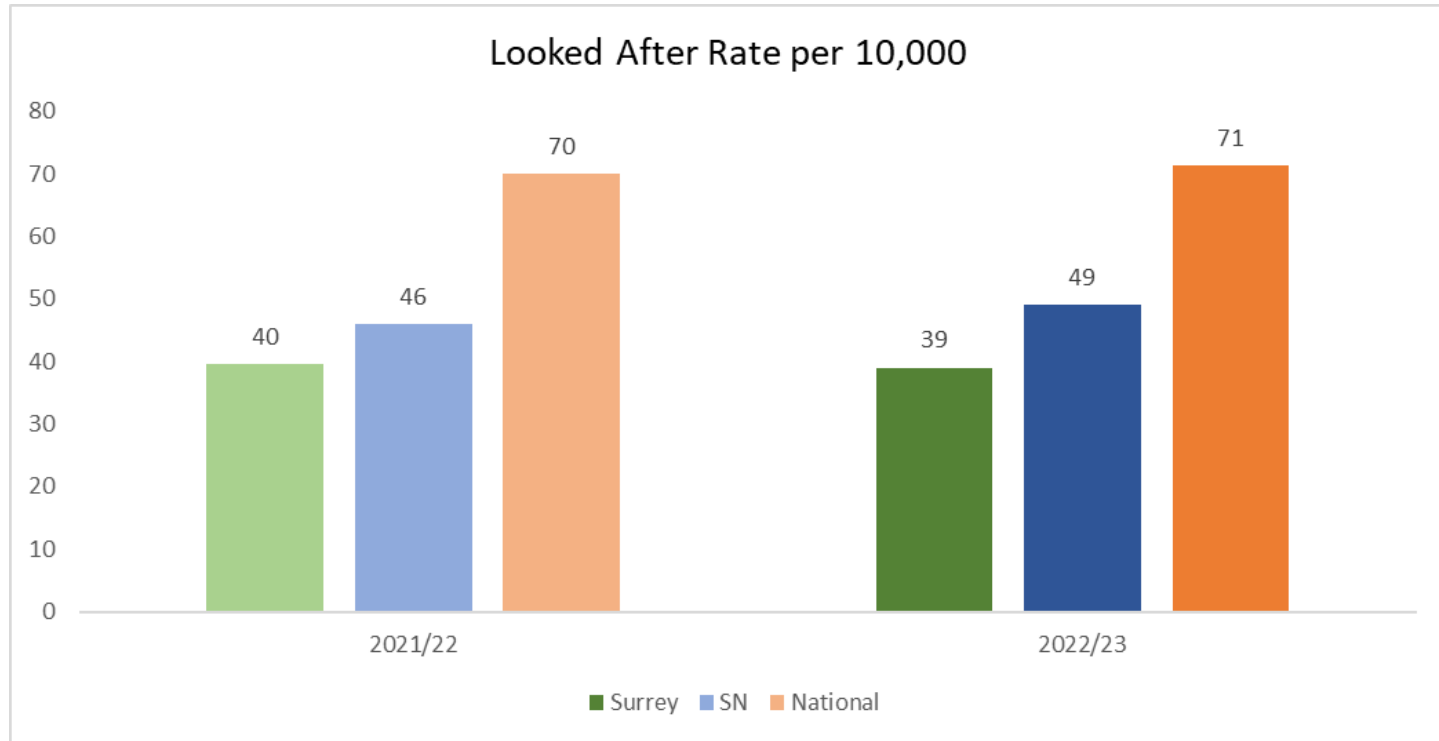
As at the 31 March 2023 the number of Children Looked After by Surrey County Council was 1013. This resulted in a slight decrease in the rate of children per 10,000 when compared to 2022.

Number of children looked after at 31 March each year			
	2022	2023	% Difference
<b>Surrey</b>	1048	1013	-3.3%
<b>Statistical Neighbours (SN)</b>	560	586	4.6%
<b>National</b>	82,170	83,840	2.0%

Rate per 10000 looked after at 31 March each year			
	2022	2023	% Difference
<b>Surrey</b>	40	39	-2.5%
<b>Statistical Neighbours (SN)</b>	46	49	6.5%
<b>National</b>	70	71	1.4%



# Rate of Looked After Children

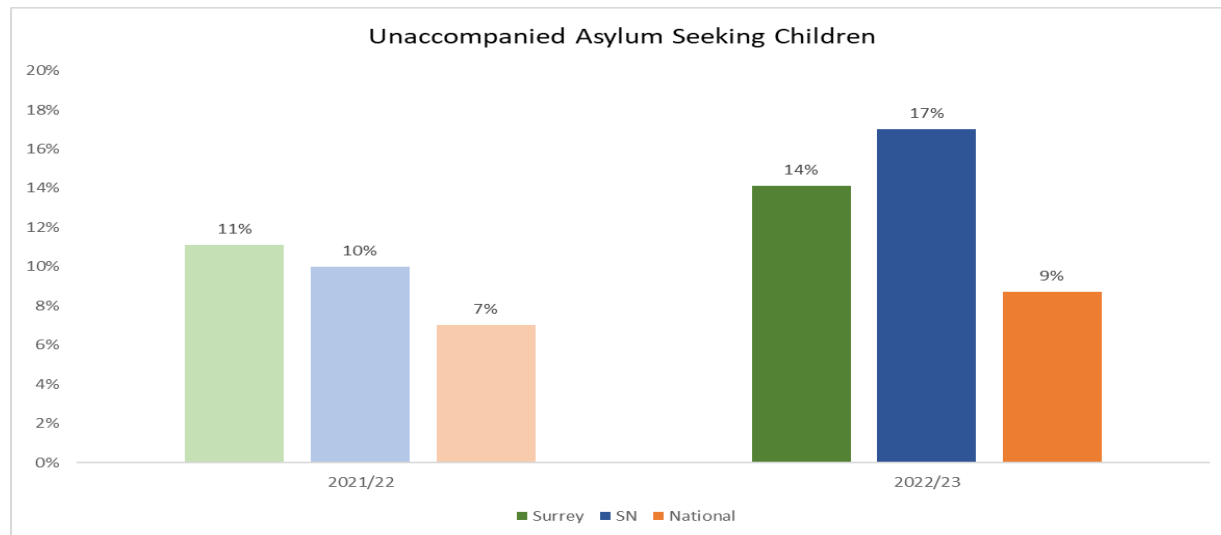


Surrey's rate per 10,000 has decreased slightly, however there has been an increase in the Looked After rate per 10,000 in the statistical neighbours and a slight increase nationally.

# Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

Although the number of Children Looked After decreased, the percentage who were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) increased by 3% between the years 2022 and 2023. As at 31st March 2022, the number of UASC within the care of SCC was 119. This number increased to 143 in 2023.

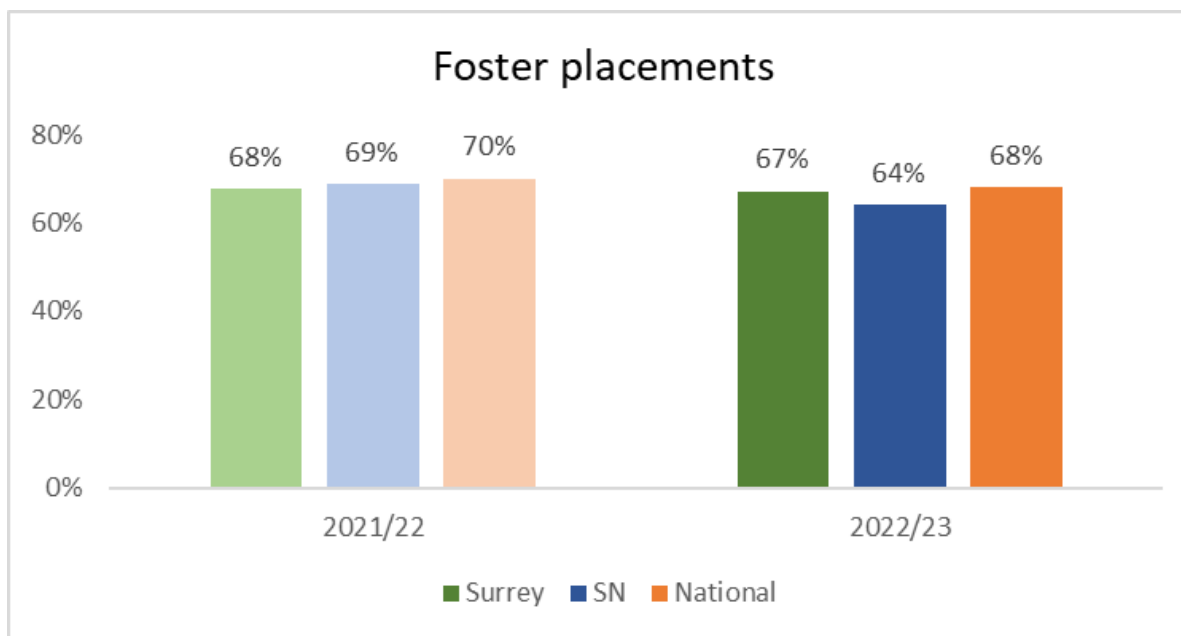
Number of UASC Children in care			
	2022	2023	Difference
<b>Surrey</b>	119	143	24
<b>SN</b>	46	83	37
<b>National</b>	5570	7290	1720



This increase in the percentage for the UASC can also be seen for the statistical neighbours and at a national level.

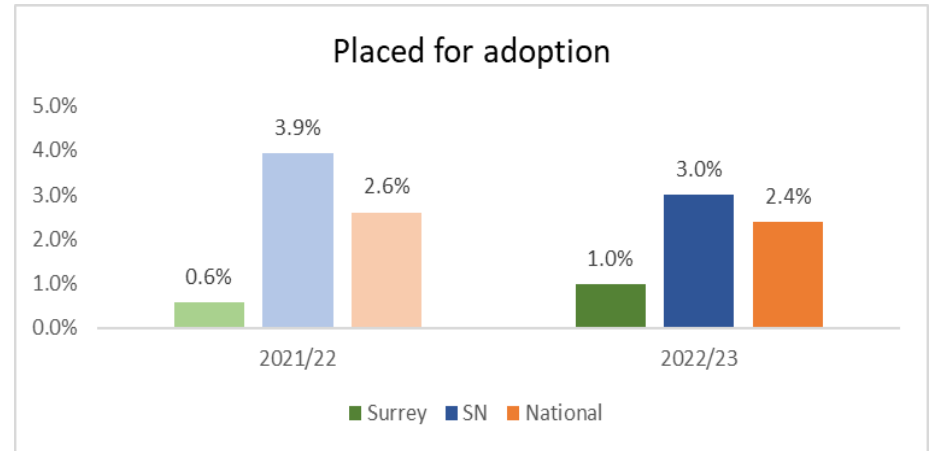
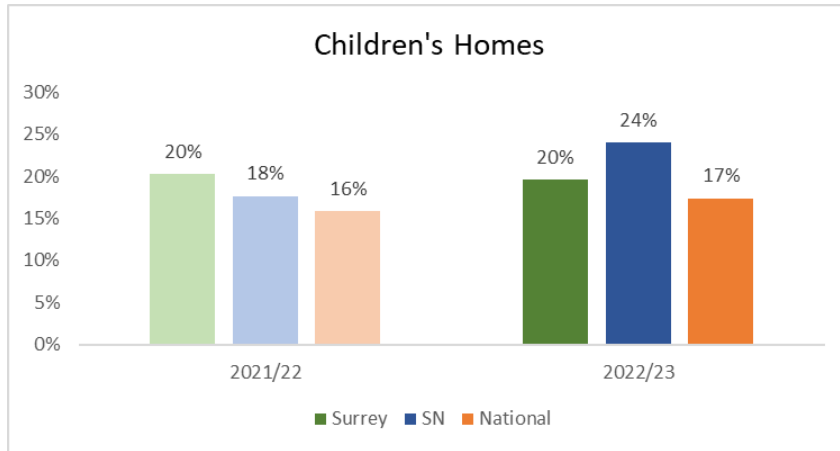
# Placements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March

The majority of those Looked After by SCC as at 31<sup>st</sup> March were placed with Foster Carers but this has decreased slightly by 1%, from 68% in 2022 to 67% in 2023.



However, this still compares well with statistical neighbours. Those placed in Children's homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) has remained the same in 2023 at 20% as 2021 and 2022. Children living in adoptive families have increased by 0.4% to 1.0% in 2023.

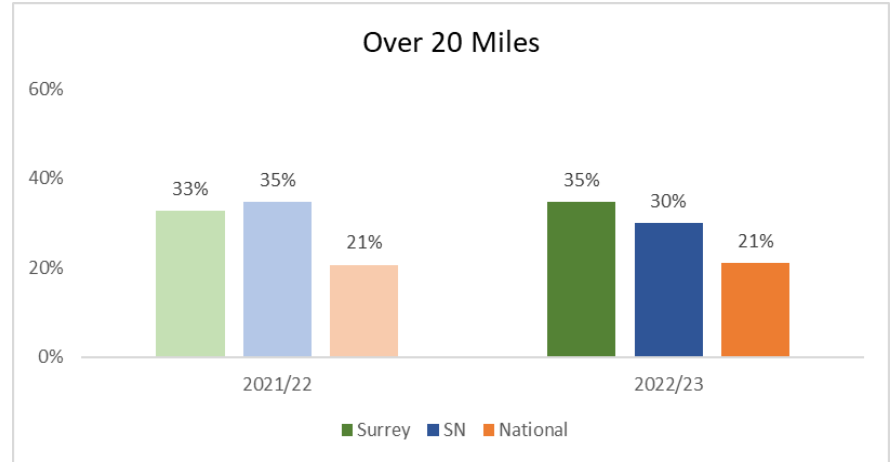
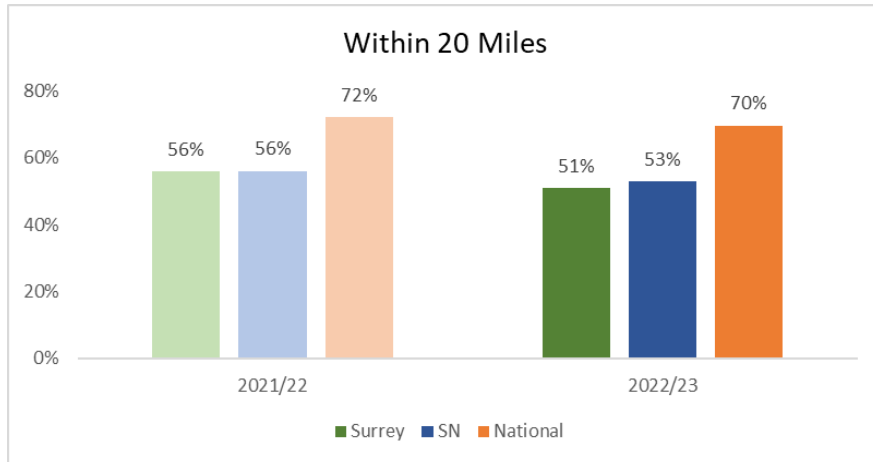
# Placements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March



Surrey is in line with our statistical neighbours and nationally where we have seen a slight decrease in the percentage of children placed in foster care. Surrey is different to our statistical neighbours as the proportion of Children's Homes placements for the statistical neighbours has increased significantly. The national figure has also increased slightly where Surrey has remained the same. For children placed for adoption in Surrey there was a slight increase. However, statistical neighbours and nationally the figures have decreased by 0.9% and 0.2% respectively.

# Placed Within 20 Miles of Home

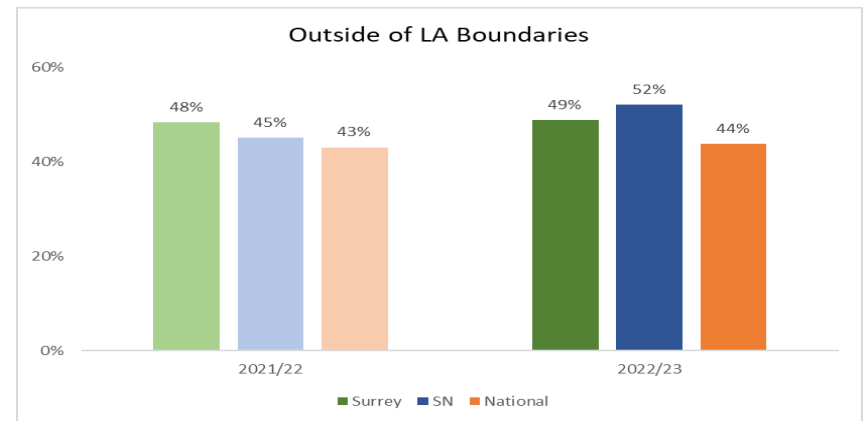
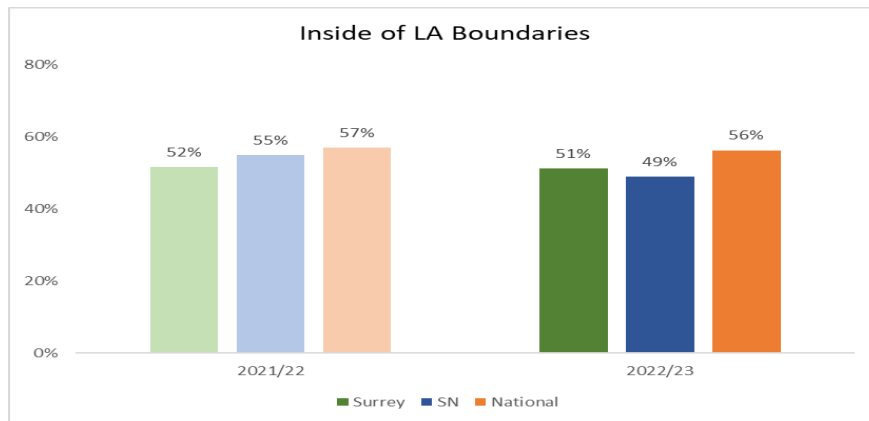
The proportion of Surrey children placed within 20 miles of their home address has decreased by 5% from 56% in 2022 to 51% in 2023. Statistical neighbours have dropped by 4% and nationally the percentage drop was 2%.



For the percentage of children living over 20 miles from their home address, there has been an increase of 2% for Surrey children, a reduction of 5% for statistical neighbours whilst nationally the figure has remained the same.

# Placed Within Local Authority Boundaries

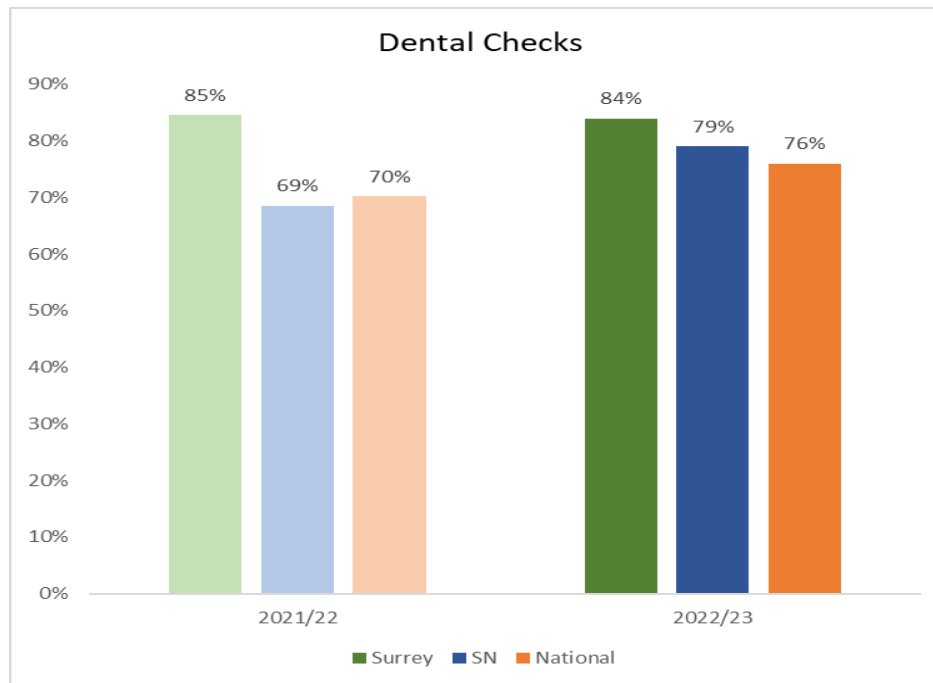
For children in Surrey's care as of 31 March 2023 there has been a slight decrease to 51% in the number of children that have been placed within its own boundaries. For those CLA placed outside the boundaries of Surrey, the percentage has slightly increased to 49% in 2023.



For the statistical neighbours, there has been a significant decrease for the percentage of children that have been placed within the LA boundaries and a significant increase for outside of the LA boundaries. Nationally, there has been a slight decrease for the percentage of children that have been placed within the LA boundaries and a slight increase for outside of the LA boundaries.

# Dental Checks

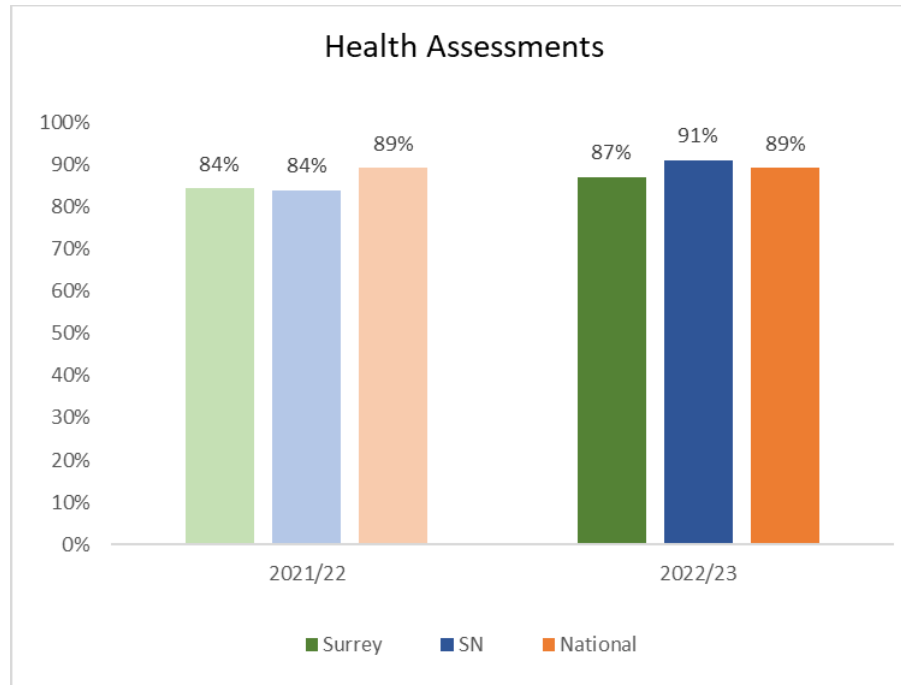
The percentage of those continuously Looked After for 12 months by Surrey with a completed dental check decreased slightly by 1% from 85% to 84% in 2022 and 2023 respectively. However, we still compare well to statistical neighbours and the national average and continue to aspire to be 100%.



Amongst Surrey’s statistical neighbours and nationally, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of dental checks undertaken.

# Health Assessments

For Surrey, the number of health assessments that have been completed for those children that have been looked after for 12 months has increased 3% from 84% in 2022 to 87% in 2023.

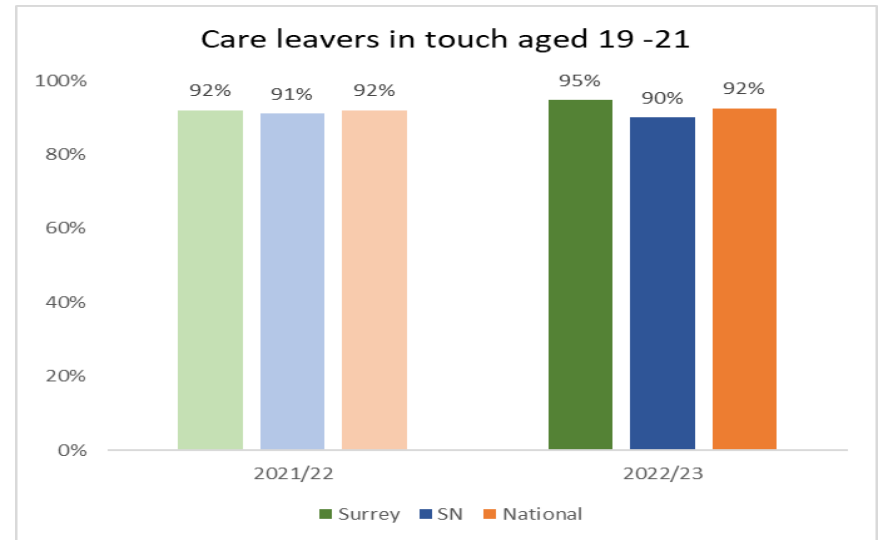
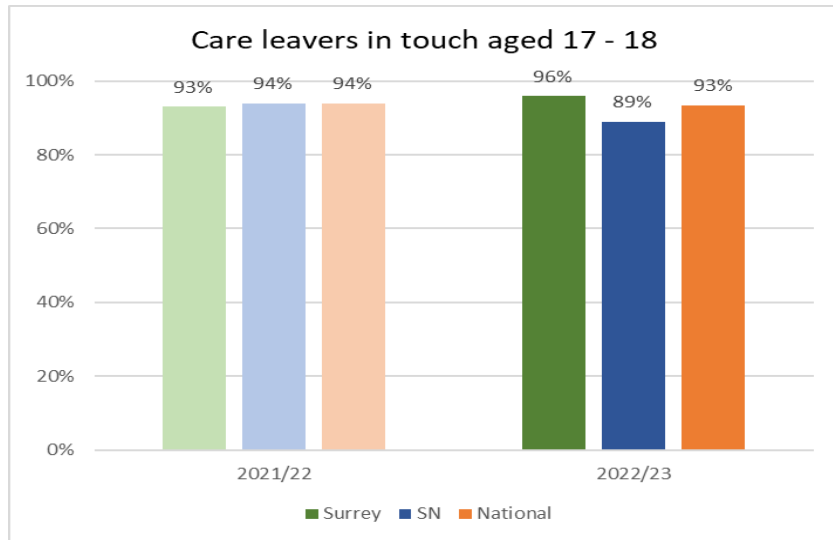


For the statistical neighbours, there has been significant increase of 7% to 91% in 2023 and nationally it has remained the same at 89% as it was in 2022.



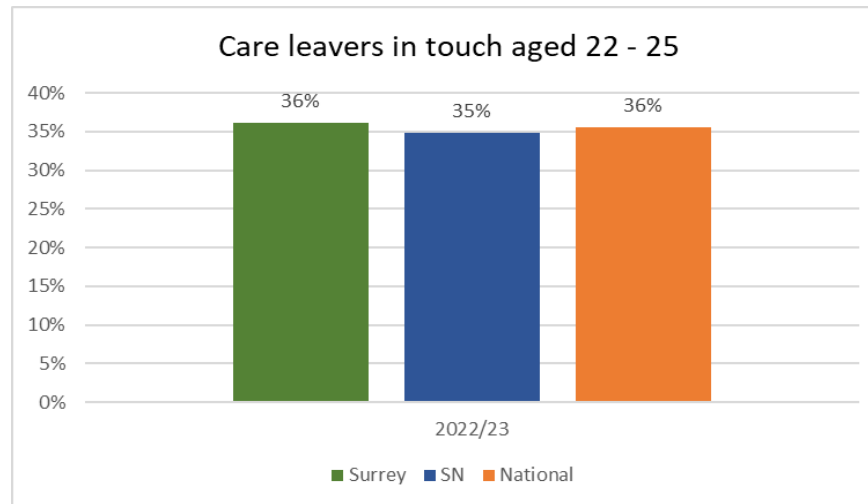
# Care leavers in touch with Local Authority

Of the relevant and former relevant children, Surrey was in touch with 96% of 17 – 18-year-olds and 95% of 19 – 21-year-olds in 2022/23. This is an increase from 2021/22 of 3% for both age groups and above our statistical neighbours and national for both age groups.



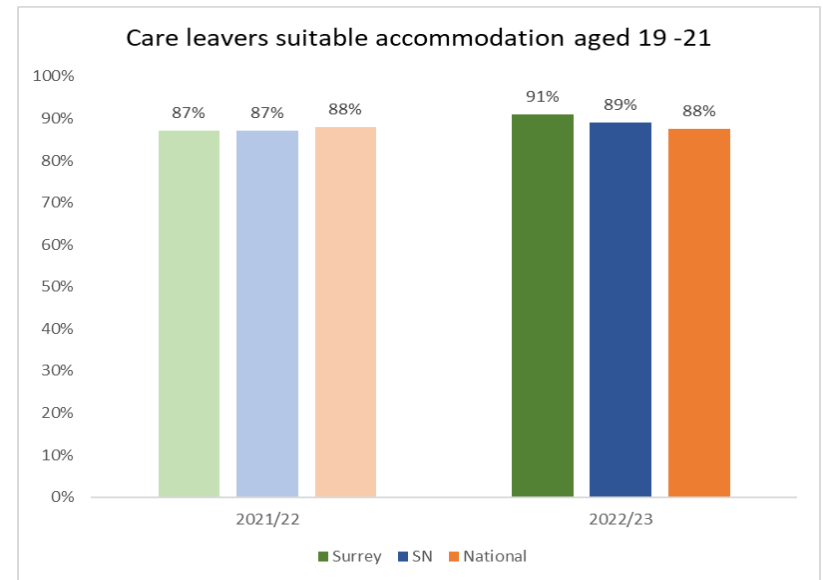
# Care leavers in touch with Local Authority

For the first time in 2022/23, The DfE collected information on care leavers aged 22 – 25. The only information published is on the numbers that we are in touch with. In Surrey we were in touch with 36% of 22 – 25-year-olds. This was slightly higher than our statistical neighbours but in line with national.



# Care leavers in touch with Local Authority in suitable accommodation

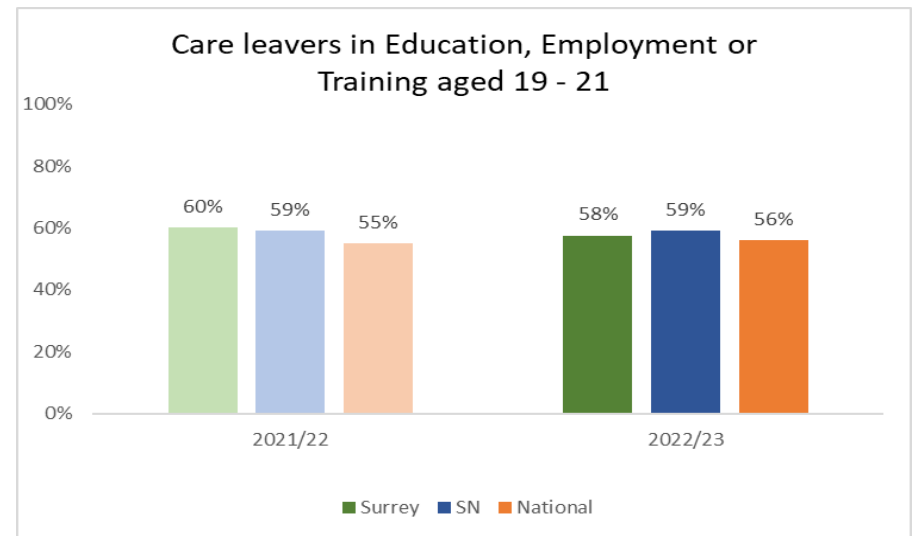
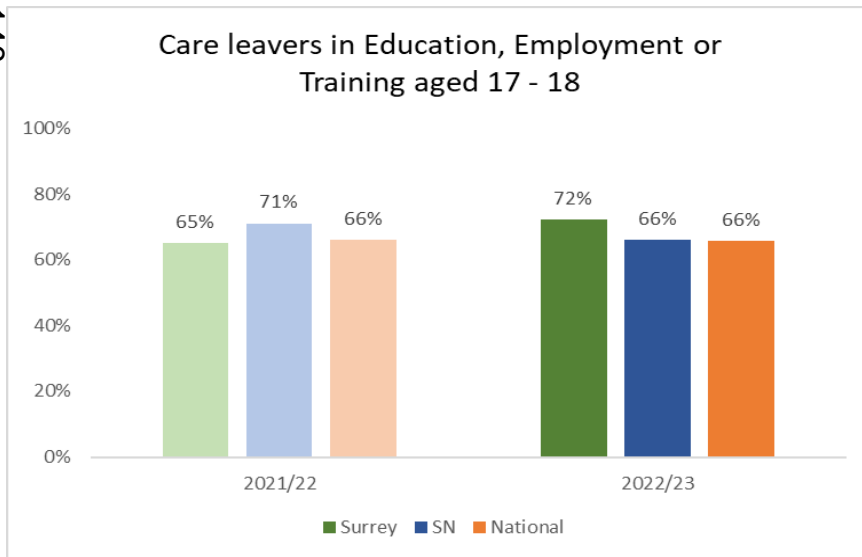
Of the care leavers that Surrey was in touch with, 94% of those aged 17 – 18 were in suitable accommodation in 2022/23 compared to 89% in 2021/22. For those aged 19 – 21 there was an increase from 87% in 2021/22 to 91% in 2022/23.



For both age groups Surrey was higher than our statistical neighbours and national.

# Care leavers in touch with Local Authority in education, employment or training

Of the care leavers that Surrey was in touch with, 72% of those aged 17 – 18 were in education, employment or training in 2022/23. This is a significant increase of 7% from 65% in 2021/22. For those aged 19 – 21 there was a slight decrease in 2022/23 to 58% from 60% in 2021/22. For the 17 – 18-year-olds we were higher than our statistical neighbours and national. For the 19 – 21-year-olds we were slightly lower than our statistical neighbours and slightly higher than national.



# Overview

The chart below uses the colour codes to demonstrate changes over the last two years, but it does not always indicate poorer performance when compared with statistical neighbours and nationally.

Measure	Surrey 2022	Surrey 2023	Direction	Statistical Neighbours	SE region	England
Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	40	39	↓	49	57	71
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	11.0%	14.0%	↑	17%	14%	9%
Legal Status – Looked After as at 31st March						
Interim Care Orders	18%	15%	↓	18%	16%	19%
Full Care Orders	49%	50%	↑	49%	53%	57%
Section 20	30%	31%	↑	29%	26%	19%
Legal Status – Status When Entering Care						
Interim Care Orders	18%	18%	→	26%	21%	31%
Section 20	74%	75%	↑	61%	65%	56%
Placements as at 31st March						
Foster Care	68%	67%	↓	64%	67%	68%
Childrens Home	20%	20%	→	24%	20%	17%
Placed for Adoption	0.6%	1.0%	↑	3%	2%	2%
Placed Within 20 Miles of Home						
Within 20 Miles	56%	51%	↓	49%	57%	70%
Over 20 Miles	33%	35%	↑	30%	28%	21%
Placed Within Local Authority Boundaries						
Inside of LA Boundaries	52%	51%	↓	49%	59%	56%
Outside of LA Boundaries	48%	49%	↑	52%	41%	44%
Reason for Leaving Care						
Adoptions	6%	7%	↑	9%	7%	9%
Special Guardianship Order	11%	12%	↑	12%	8%	12%
Returned Home	27%	18%	↓	28%	20%	21%
Other	32%	28%	↓	29%	22%	26%
Dental Checks	85%	84%	↓	79%	75%	76%
Health Assessments	84%	87%	↑	91%	88%	89%
Immunisations	93%	84%	↓	75%	79%	82%
Substance Misuse	1%	5%	↑	3%	3%	3%
Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires	95%	67%	↓	87%	72%	75%
Development Checks	100%	82%	↓	93%	95%	88%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in touch with Local Authority	93%	96%	↑	89%	87%	93%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in suitable accommodation	89%	94%	↑	88%	85%	91%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in education, employment or training	65%	72%	↑	66%	63%	66%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in touch with Local Authority	92%	95%	↑	90%	90%	92%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in suitable accommodation	87%	91%	↑	89%	86%	88%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in education, employment or training	60%	58%	↓	59%	57%	56%

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# Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2023-24



## A message from the chair

As Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, I am pleased to introduce the 2023-24 Annual Report of Surrey's Corporate Parenting Board.

The Board is comprised of Members, Officers and Carers dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people who keep an unrelenting focus on the lived experiences of children currently in the care of the council and those young people who are care-experienced. I would like to thank them for their help and contribution to the work of the Board and their commitment as corporate parents.

It is important that as a Board we can all understand the lived experience of those children and young people and regularly hear their views. The User Voice & Participation Team has continued to play an essential role in linking us in with children and young people, so that their views can set our priorities, shape what we do and how we tackle challenges and embed improvements into practice and we are grateful to all of the young people whom we have met and for their honesty and openness in their conversations with the Board. From the start of the new municipal year 2024, the Board will be co-chaired by a care-experienced young person, who will bring a new and direct link to those for whom we are corporate parents and will help us to continue to deliver the changes needed in our services for looked after children and those who have left the care of the council.

The Board also recognises foster carers as the backbone of the council's care system and is grateful for the commitment and dedication that they give to the children and young people in their care; we have strongly supported the introduction of the Foster Carers' charter which will go live early in the next year.

All members of the Corporate Parenting Board share the ambition that all children growing up in the care of the council and care-experienced young people will be safe, healthy, actively involved in society, happy in the right home, have education, employment and training opportunities and sufficient preparation and plans made with them for their future. It is these priorities that shape the structure and focus of our Corporate Parenting Board meetings. We have heard from young people that the cost of living crisis has meant particular financial challenges, that the housing market can present acute difficulties and that services and opportunities to support emotional health and wellbeing are increasingly needed.

We can look back and see that over the past three years, the Board has been able to secure an exemption from Council Tax for all care leavers in every district and borough in Surrey and we have championed a universal leisure offer, which in partnership with eleven district and borough councils has enabled free gym membership and swimming to all looked after children, care leavers and a 50% discount for foster carers across Surrey. During the past year our Council joined the Care Leaver Covenant, a national inclusion programme that supports care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently with a range of additional opportunities and, working together in a strong partnership with Health colleagues, reached agreement for an exemption from prescription charges for care leavers. The Board has also been very supportive of the council's significant capital investment in the children's residential estate, with three new residential children's homes completed and two new properties near to completion for group living for care leavers, an initiative that will provide modern, purpose-built, local and sociable first homes for young people.

These are examples of the scale of our ambition as a Corporate Parenting Board to spread our influence widely across Surrey and to work with all our partners for the benefit of our young people.



This annual report provides a summary of the business of the Board and includes an overview of the themes we have focussed on throughout 2023/24 and our priorities for the year to come.



Cllr. Clare Curran  
**Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Lifelong Learning**

## A message from the co-chair

Hello everyone,

Firstly, I would like to thank the service for this opportunity!

I am really looking forward to working with everyone to find new ways to help our young people as well as workers and carers. I will not only be here as an experienced care leaver, but I will also be here as guidance and another voice representing our young people.

I hope I can use my experience as a care leaver, to give the best possible advice I know young people will agree on as well as seeing the carers point of view, meeting in the middle and coming to a conclusion that would work best for everyone.

In this role I aim to make sure that meetings run smoothly, without heated disagreements, and for everyone to have their say in what they think will help with situations that aren't working for our young people and carers.

I can't wait to co-chair the future meetings and help be the voice our young feel they don't have.



Demi Hogan  
**UVP Apprentice and co-chair  
of the CPB**

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# 1. SURREY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

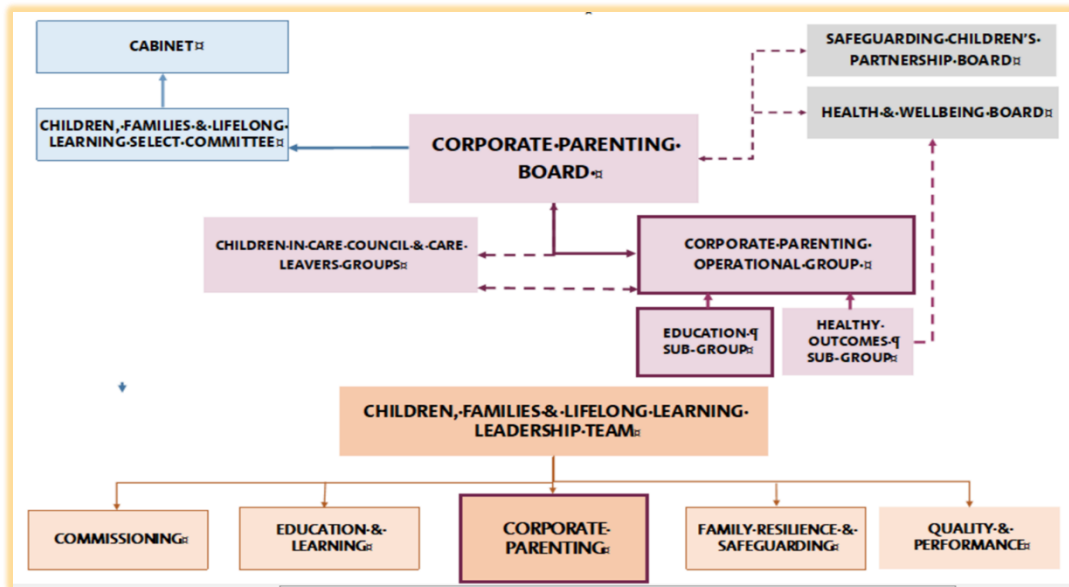
## 1.1 Purpose

Looking after children is one of the most important things a council does. When a child comes into care in Surrey, the county council becomes their ‘Corporate Parent.’ This means that everyone involved with the council (the people who work in the council, the elected councillors and the managers) have to make sure that Surrey county council is the best parent it can be. Together they should act for that child in the same way as a good parent would. They should always ask themselves **‘would this be good enough for my child?’**

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) provides robust assurance of the whole corporate parenting system, ensuring Surrey is the very best corporate parent to its children; and that all looked after children and care leavers can achieve their full potential. The Board does this by putting the voice of children, foster carers and service users at the centre of everything it does. The CPB ensures that the county council and its partner agencies uphold the highest corporate parenting principles. The foundation of our work is laid down in our **Corporate Parenting Strategy** which sets out our commitments to looked after children and care leavers about how we will care for and support them. The new 2023-25 strategy was launched in 2024 along with refreshed pledge promises.

The CPB may inquire into any service for looked after children or that contributes to outcomes for looked after children and care leavers across the system including social care, health, education, leisure, policing, housing and transport.

Below is a table to show the wider county council governance structure of the Board.



The work of the CPB is underpinned by the Seven **Corporate Parenting Principles** enshrined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 below.

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.
2. To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.

4. To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.
6. For children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

## 1.2 Listening to children and young people

After much planning, 2024 saw the introduction of a new care experienced co-chair role. Demi, Apprentice from the User Voice and Participation (UVP) service began attending meetings to shadow the chair and will begin to formerly co-chair in May 2024. As a former looked after child and current care leaver, Demi adds a wealth of care experience and wisdom to the Board.

To enhance co-chairing and foster relationship building, meetings of the Board have returned to face-to-face. During the reporting period, a meeting of the Board was held in a brand new children's home and there are plans to hold future meetings at locations across the county council. Holding Board meetings at different locations provides members with the opportunity to visit front line services and meet with service users and employees.

For the past three years, UVP have run two-monthly surveys for children and young people to share feedback on relevant Board themes. These surveys have asked children and young people to share what is working well, what is not working well and what they feel can be improved. Moving forward, instead of these regular surveys, UVP plans to run one annual survey (alternating between a commissioned survey such as Bright Spots and a UVP-led survey) covering all 5 CPB themes. This survey will rely on key workers and other professionals to help generate a much larger number of responses. For each CPB report UVP will use feedback from these annual surveys, data from Personal Education Plans, Looked-After Child reviews and Pathway Plans as well as comparing with national data and other reports. The service will also continue to use quotes and insights from young people involved in various participation groups.

The Board has worked with UVP to launch the Notify service in 2023. This facilitates direct communication with care leavers ensuring relevant opportunities reach them directly by text and/or e-mail. The service has also identified participation champions to work with UVP in raising awareness of opportunities and events with a focus on improving engagement.

Action cards raised by children and young people shape the development of corporate parenting, and wider services. A detailed update on action cards is available on page 11.

## 1.3 Membership

The Board has [Cross Party Membership](#) and is chaired by the Lead Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning. There were significant changes to membership during 2023-24. Additions to the Board included, Cllr. Clare Curran returning as chair, Lisa Andrews, Public Health Lead, Dr. Sharon Kefford, designated doctor and Demi Hogan, care experienced apprentice all joined the Board.

Linda Grover, a foster carer with over 40 years' experience retired and was replaced by Sam Morris, deputy chair of the foster care association. Joanna Killian, CEO and Fiona White, county councillor all left the Board.

**Below is a table of current CPB members**

Name	Role
Cllr Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Education & Learning
Cllr Sinead Mooney	Member
Cllr Maureen Attewell	Member
Cllr Rebecca Paul	Member
Cllr Jonathon Essex	Member
Cllr Steve Bax	Member
Cllr Catherine Powell	Member
Cllr Fiona White	Member
Cllr John Robini	Member
Cllr Jeremy Webster	Member
Jane Porter	Chair of Foster Carer Executive
Cindy Morris	Care Experienced Foster Carer
Sam Morris	Deputy chair of the Foster Care Association
Sharon Kefford	Designated Doctor
Rachael Wardell	Executive Director
Tina Benjamin	Director – Corporate Parenting
Anwen Foy	Headteacher and Assistant Director
Jo Rabbitte	Assistant Director – Children's R
Sam Reynolds	Service Manager, Customer Ser
Lisa Andrews	Public Health Principal

**1.4 Meetings**

A sequence of pre-meetings

facilitates six annual Board meetings to run efficiently during a 12-month reporting period from April 2022 to March 2023. The Board holds five themed meetings and one meeting to review annual reports.



**Themed meetings of the CPB**

- Safeguarding
- Safe & stable homes
- Education, employment & training
- Health & wellbeing
- Skills & preparation for independence

**Meeting held in 2023-24**

CPB date	Theme	Reports
May 2023	Additional Meeting (annual reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Children's services transformation update</li> <li>✓ Children's homes annual report</li> <li>✓ IRO annual report</li> <li>✓ Independent visitors annual report</li> <li>✓ CPB annual report</li> </ul>

<b>July 2023</b>	<b>Safe &amp; Stable Homes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sufficiency annual report</li> <li>✓ Fostering annual report</li> <li>✓ Adoption annual report</li> </ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<b>Education, Employment &amp; Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Virtual school annual report</li> <li>✓ SEND</li> <li>✓ NEET Task &amp; Finish group</li> </ul>
<b>November 2023</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Surrey</li> <li>✓ EWMH</li> <li>✓ Big Leaf</li> <li>✓ Foster carer charter</li> </ul>
<b>January 2024</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Safeguarding children &amp; care leavers</li> <li>✓ Corporate parenting strategy 2022-25</li> <li>✓ Children's services transformation update</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<b>Skills &amp; Preparation for Independence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Moving towards independence</li> <li>✓ Supported accommodation</li> </ul>

### CPB schedule of meetings

Meetings are scheduled with strong leadership from the chair and director of corporate parenting, working in partnership with the co-chair and coordinating officers. The table below demonstrates how Board meetings are scheduled.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Responsible Owner(s)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>1. Forward Plan Wash-up meeting</b>	8-wks before CPB	Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM, co-chair	Agree agenda, discuss report content & contributors
<b>2. Draft Report meeting</b>	3-wks before CPB	Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM, co-chair	Review draft reports, make recommendations & additional requests
<b>3. Pre-meet with co-chair and chair</b>	1-week before CPB	Chair and co-chair of the Board, PM	To discuss the agenda and agree chairing duties
<b>4. CPB</b>	Every 2-months	CPB Members & small number of senior officers	Corporate Parenting Board meeting makes recommendations & monitors action-tracker
<b>5. CPOG meeting</b>	1-month following CPB	Multi-agency officer membership	Implement actions & recommendations from CPB

The CPB examines thematic reports from multi-agency partners and services that provide a service under the corporate parenting umbrella. The Board has several standard agenda items including a themed item on views of children and young people, director's report and action tracker.

**CPB standard agenda items:**

<b>Standard Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Views of CYP on the CPB theme</b>	To understand what is & what is not working well in relation to themes. To listen to the recommendations and suggestions for service development from CYP with care experience	Participation Officer
<b>*Corporate Parenting Director's Update</b>	Provide regular updates on key areas of Corporate Parenting across the county. Report provides a summary of the Alerts and Escalations raised on behalf of children by the Independent Reviewing Service.  To understand current data & trends in relation to children looked after & care leavers	Director of Corporate Parenting
<b>Children's Social Care Transformation Update</b>	To provide information & awareness of the various transformation projects & improvement activity currently underway across Surrey's children's services.	Head of Projects and Programmes
<b>**CPB Action Tracker</b>	To provide a status update on CPB actions.	Corporate Parenting Project Manager

\*The Director's Update provides assurance to members by providing updates on serious incidence, areas of concern for the Board and data on vulnerable groups of children & young people, including:

- Performance data
- Update on capital programme
- Initial health and dental checks
- Young people in tier 4 provision
- Number of children in secure accommodation Section 25
- Young people looked after in custody
- Missing and exploited children  
The number of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) alerts are reported, included the reason and resolution of the alert
- Update on UASC
- Status of CYP living in unregulated placements
- Ofsted outcomes of children's homes
- Children living in unregistered placements
- Education data

\*\*An action tracker monitors progress against actions and decisions of the Board, an update is presented at each CPB.



## 1.4 Relationship with CPOG

The role of the corporate parenting operational group (CPOG) is to take forward issues and decisions arising from the CPB that require the engagement of operational services in and outside the council. Themed CPOG meetings shadow those of the CPB, CPOG is accountable to the CPB and the director of children's services for the operational delivery of the corporate parenting strategy.

The group is also accountable to our children in care, care leavers and their carers. Unlike the CPB, CPOG has broad membership of officers from across the council, foster carer representatives and senior leads from key partner agencies including the NHS, Police, Fire & Rescue, and Surrey's Integrated Care System, enabling direct multi agency working and collaboration.

The Healthy Outcomes Subgroup (HOSG) reports to the Corporate Parenting Operational Group and looks at the health and wellbeing of care experienced children and young adults. An Education Subgroup led by the Surrey Virtual School, has a focus on the education and training of children and young people. Both groups report into CPOG.

Examples of the work of CPOG include, monitoring the implementation of pledge promises and prioritising the need for additional dental provision for children and young people. The Board plans to further strengthen links with CPOG and discussions are taking place to hold a CPB Summit later in year. When an issue is raised by four or more children or young person then 'action cards' are raised, these help to make structural improvements across the service. Action cards are allocated to service leads during CPOG and monitored regularly.

## 1.5 Action Cards

As of April 2024, UVP currently have ten open action cards related to the experience of looked-after children and care leavers. Eight of these action cards are currently in progress, and two are ready to be taken back to the participation groups with final updates and to be closed with young people's agreement.

Since April 2021, the team have closed five action cards with the support of Corporate Parenting Board and the Corporate Parenting Operational Group. The closed action cards have related to the following themes:

- Health, Wellbeing & CAMHS
- Rights and entitlements
- Preparing for independence
- Communication with workers
- Housing

## 2. OUR VISION AND VALUES

### 2.1 Corporate parenting vision

The vision of Surrey county council is to be the best corporate parents we can, working together to provide children and young people in our care with happy and healthy childhoods, helping them reach and exceed their potential, and supporting them into successful adulthood.










#### The values we bring to help us realise our vision

- We must be the strongest champions of and advocates for all our looked after children and care leavers.
- We should have positive regard for all looked after children and care leavers and make sure that all are nurtured, feel loved and supported.
- Looked after children and care leavers are 'our' children and young people and we must have strong ambitions and aim high for all.
- All our young people are individuals and unique and we must parent each child as such.
- We must build trusting relationships with our children and young people so they feel able to give us their views and can talk to us about their wishes and feelings, their anxieties and hopes.
- We must listen to our children and young people and take account of their views on all matters which affect them.
- We must be resilient and persistent parents with an uncompromising approach to doing the best for our children and young people and a willingness to 'go the extra mile.'
- We want to continuously improve as corporate parents and continuously improve outcomes for our young people.

### 2.2 Pledge Promises 2023-25

In 2024 our pledge promises were reviewed and reproduced by children and young people with care experience, additional pledges were included, and recommendations made to change the name of themes. A key change resulted in the theme, 'sufficiency, placements and permanence' being replaced changed to 'safe and stable homes.'

#### Below are refreshed pledge promises 2023-25

	<b>Help To Be Safe</b>	We will do everything we can to protect you from harm, to keep you safe and help you feel happy and secure.
	<b>A Good Home</b>	We will make sure you have a good quality home and can be part of your local community
	<b>Keeping In Touch</b>	We will help you stay in touch safely with people that are important to you
	<b>Being Healthy</b>	We will support you to be as healthy as possible—this includes having a healthy body and mind.
	<b>Achieving Your Best</b>	We will support you with school, college, training and work so that you can achieve your best and have good opportunities when you get older
	<b>New Experiences</b>	We will make sure you have the chance to do hobbies, follow your interests and have new experiences
	<b>Becoming An Adult</b>	We will help you to feel confident and able to deal with difficult times in your life and we will help you prepare you for becoming an adult
	<b>Listening &amp; Including You</b>	We will listen to you and include you as much as we can when we make plans and decisions that affect your life
	<b>Help That's Right For You</b>	We will make sure our support is helpful for each individual person, and easy for everyone to use. We will stand up for young people if their voices are not being heard

When reviewing the pledge promises 2023-25 children and young people gave advice on how to implement pledges. It is the role of CPOG to monitor the implementation of pledge promises and provide feedback to the CPB. There are plans to develop the CPB report template, to assist report authors with clearly demonstrating how they are implementing Pledge Promises and the impact this may have on children and young people.

### Feedback from children and young people

- *“You have to fulfil in all ways not just partially”* – 20 years old
- *“You guys shouldn’t promise things you cannot keep up with. It’s not right to give young people hope”* – 24 years old
- *“Yes but only if you actually stick to them”* – 17 years old

### We would also like to see...

Additional support and services, for UVP to raise through action cards and service development through the CPB, to include:

- Financial support
- Mental Health Awareness – not just support through therapy
- Housing
- Specific work opportunities
- Help young people to understand what the council can and cannot do
- *“Children should never go hungry”* – 10 years old
- Listen to young people about their PAs or social workers
- Better communication and interactions with workers

## 2.3 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2025

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our vision for CYP looked after by the council, or formerly in care, and the values that inform the way we meet our corporate parenting responsibilities. Drawing on the requirements of the [Social Work Act 2017](#) and the seven corporate parenting principles, it sets out our priorities and the actions we take to ensure that no child looked after by the council is ‘left behind’. The strategy was developed in consultation with children and young people, carers and partner agencies from across the council. A young person version of the new strategy will soon be available.

A copy of the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-25 is available on the [Corporate parenting board page](#).

## 2.4 Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025

Surrey County Council is legally required to consider sufficiency and the term is defined in the [Children Act 1989](#) which is the primary legislation in which all Children’s Services operate. The act requires all local authorities to take steps that secure, as far as reasonably practicable, enough accommodation within the authority’s area that meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after. Aside from being a statutory duty, we also know that working to secure the right amount of appropriate provision, in the right places and at the right time makes a massive difference to Surrey’s looked after children and care leavers and is a key part of how we can enable them to achieve better outcomes.

Surrey has a five-year sufficiency strategy (2022-2025) which sets out five clear strategic ambitions to realise better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, these are:

Living in a family setting where possible

Surrey homes for Surrey children

A wide range of placements for diverse needs

Homes of the highest quality

Support to move to independence

## 2.5 Surrey Children's Homes

In 2023 a large capital programme began to increase sufficiency through the development of two brand new specialist children's homes in Epsom, Walton Upon Thames, and a further home in Dorking planned to open in 2024.

Surrey County Council has one of the largest estates of in-house residential provision in the country. Each home is registered and subject to rigorous monitoring by Ofsted. Epsom and Walton Upon Thames children's homes have not yet been inspected by Ofsted.

### Children's Homes Ofsted Outcomes 2023/24

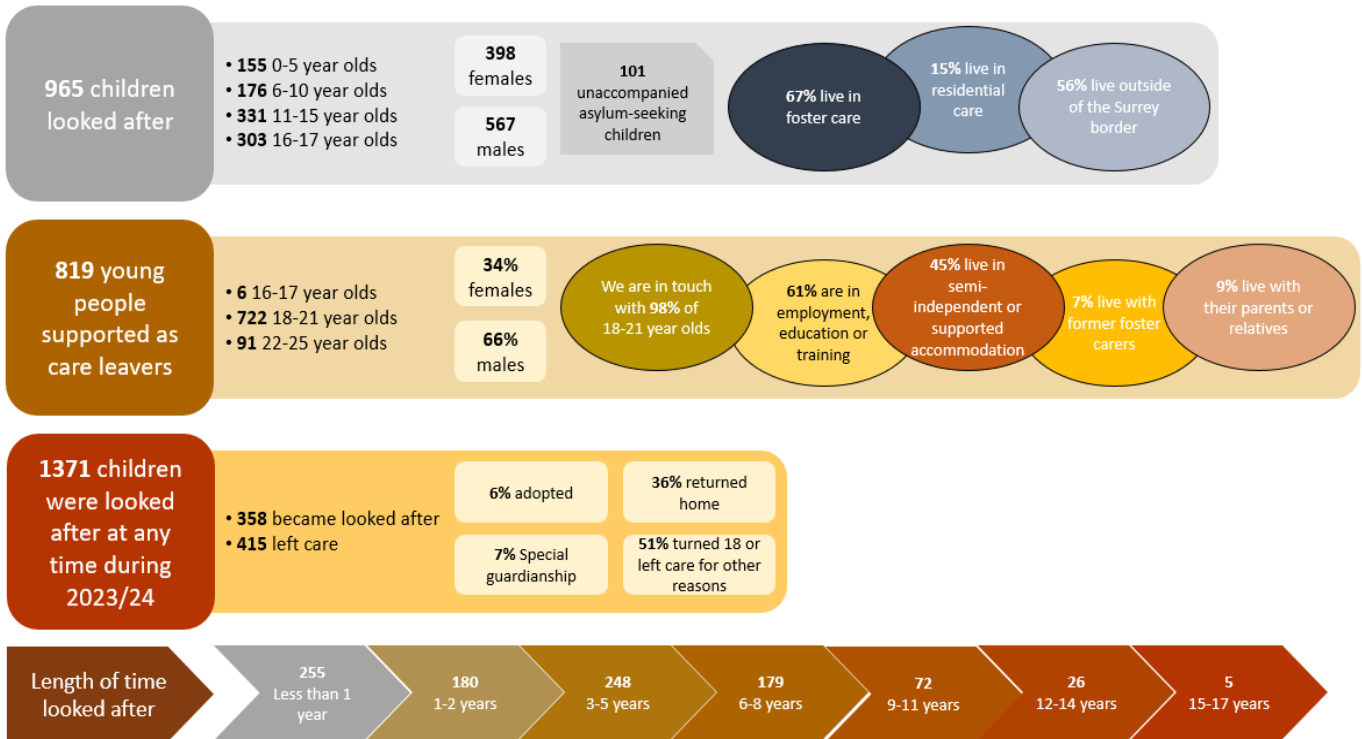
Home Name	Home Purpose	Inspection 22/23	Inspection 23/24	Overall Current Rating
<b>Applewood</b>	6 bed short breaks home offering short breaks to over 35 children up to the age of 18 with a range of disabilities.		31/5 and 1/6 23	<b>Good</b>
<b>The Annexe</b>	Solo placement for young person with high safeguarding risks.		28/29 June 23	<b>Good</b>
<b>Burbank</b>	Up to 5 children aged 11-14 / or older children who have global developmental delay and who would not be suitable for homes with young people partaking in risky behaviours.		04/05 Jan 2024	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Extended Hope</b>	Provides 2 crisis/respite beds for up to 10 days for all children and young people in an emotional/ mental health crisis.		3-4 May 23	<b>Good</b>
<b>Faircroft</b>	Females aged 14+ years who have experienced childhood trauma and display varying levels of emotional dysregulation and self-harming behaviours.		6/7 June 23	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
<b>Libertas</b>	5 bed Residential care and/or outreach support and care, individually tailored to prepare young people for adulthood, leaving care, and subsequent inter-dependence. The young people will be aged at 15 years or above on admission.		6/7 September 23	<b>Good</b>
<b>Ruth House</b>	11 bed Children's Home for children with disabilities aged 11-18 with diagnosis of Autism		22/23 Feb 24	<b>Good</b>

	Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Learning Disabilities (LD).			
<b>Cheyne Walk not accepting admissions</b>	Our No Wrong Door Hub, offering residential support for up to 4 children in line with the No Wrong Door model.		n/a	n/a
<b>Woodlands</b>	Up to 4 children aged between 10-17 years old. We work with children and young people that are being criminally and sexually exploited and are often engaging in criminal activity.		6/7 December 23	<b>Good</b>

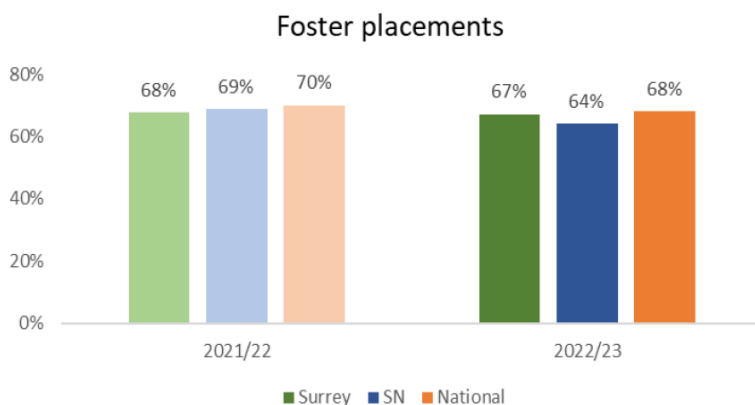
The Statement of Purpose for Cheyne Walk is currently under review. We have made a decision not to pursue No Wrong Door Accreditation. The edge of care outreach work will transfer to Family Resilience as part of the Adolescent Service. Following the review and some building work we intend to reopen the Cheyne Walk Children's Home as soon as possible.

### 3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CARE

Data varies throughout this Annual Report 2023/24 The table below is a snapshot of our looked after children and care leavers, from March 2024.



Below is Surrey placement data for children’s homes and foster placements compared to national and regional statistics ending 2023.



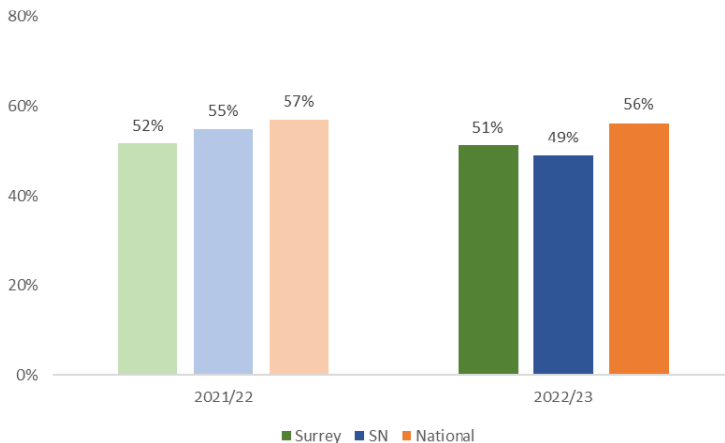
The majority of those looked after by SCC as of 31 March were placed with foster carers, but this has decreased slightly by 1%, from 68% in 2022 to 67% in 2023. However, this still compares well with statistical neighbours. Those placed in Children’s Homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) has remained the same in 2023 at 20% as in 2021 and 2022.

### Children's Homes



Those placed in Children's Homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) has remained the same in 2023 at 20% as in 2022.

### Inside of LA Boundaries



For children in Surrey's care as of 31 March 2023 there has been a slight decrease to 51% in the number of children that have been placed within its own boundaries. For those CLA placed outside the boundaries of Surrey, the percentage has slightly increased to 49% in 2023.

## 4. SPONSORED CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PROJECTS

Board members actively participate in a number of corporate parenting programmes and projects to promote and celebrate achievements of children and young people and to understand operational challenges faced by children, young people and their workers/carers.

The CPB sponsors specific activities and member-led projects including:

- Member visits
- Link Member Scheme
- The Celebration Fund
- Boxing Offer
- Bicycle Scheme
- Care Leaver Covenant
- Universal Leisure Offer
- Out of County Gym Pass Scheme

CPB projects are coordinated by the corporate parenting project manager in partnership with members, the service and service users.

## 4.1 Member Visits

Member visits provide opportunities for officers to further understand the role of members and for members to identify and explore wider system issues impacting on the care, support and experience of service users and officers. Visits provide evidence of child, carer, parent and practitioner insight and experience, and are used to inform discussions and shape assurance and decision-making that improves services and support for children. In 2023 member visits were relaunched in partnership with the Select Committee. A calendar of member visits is coordinated to reflect Select Committee and CPB themes and priorities.

Below are member visits that have taken place during the reporting period 2023/24.

	Member visits completed during 2023/24
1.	Commissioning workshop
2.	User Voice and Participation visit
3.	MindWorks Service
4.	SEND service

## 4.2 Link Member Scheme

As part of ongoing quality assurance arrangements, councillors who are members of the CPB may visit Surrey children's homes. These visits help members deepen their understanding of the experiences of staff, carers and children, and the quality of practice children receive. They also enable staff, carers and children to raise good news stories and general concerns independent of the operational service. Board members often use their local connections to champion activities on behalf of homes. New link members were allocated during the reporting period, to reflect changes to Board membership and the establishment of new children's homes.

## 4.3 Celebration Fund Panel

All councillors at SCC are committed to being good corporate parents and this means supporting all children and young people in care and leaving care to achieve their full potential. To help with this there is a small, discretionary fund where members make financial contributions from their 'Your Councillor Community Fund.' The Celebration Fund supports looked after children and care leavers to:

- Pursue a hobby or interest
- Participate in a one off activity that will really benefit a child/young person's overall wellbeing
- Provide a child/young person with a piece of 'equipment' to support independence/achieve a goal and to engage in a sports activity
- Go on a local/international visit, trip, or excursion
- Celebrate personal achievements (no matter how small or large)



## Finances

For the year 2023/24, a total of **£10,032.00** from **26 Members** was received in contributions from their '**Your Councillor Community Fund**'. The Leader also agreed an additional end of year donation of £12,396.60 from the Members Community Allocation Fund for 2022/23. Together with the Celebration Fund awards approved and the contribution of £5,000.00 from the Celebration Fund budget to the Hussle gym offer, the fund now stands at **£45,082.53**.

## Applications

This year, **121 applications** were submitted, **89 were agreed and awarded** totalling **£16,507.50**. **54 were awarded** to children and young people **living in county** and **35 were awarded** to children and young people **living out of county**.

The June 2023 Panel awarded 28 successful applications (**£5,759.84**), the October 2023 Panel awarded 28 successful applications (**£4,993.86**) and the February 2024 Panel awarded 33 successful applications (**£5,753.80**).

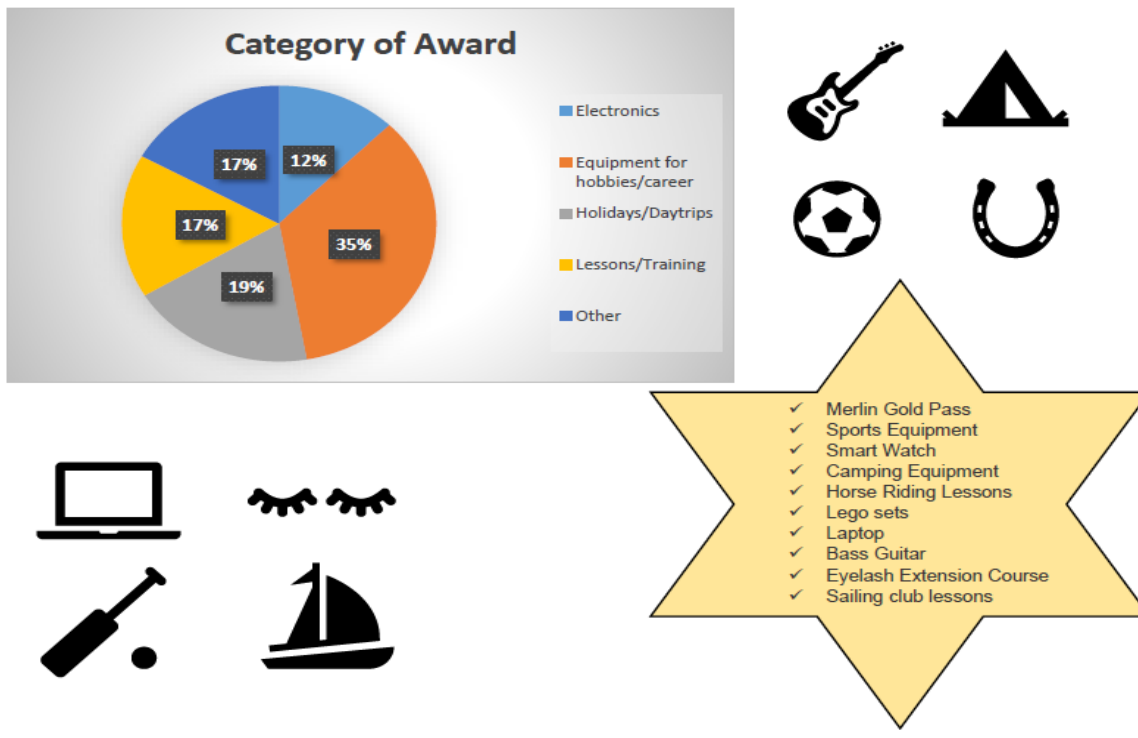
51 different workers made applications to the Celebration Fund in 2023/24. On average, a worker made 2 applications in the year. The highest number of applications made by one worker was 15 applications. We regularly send out reminders to all staff to provide an equal opportunity to apply.

The Celebration Fund continues to influence further provision and offers for children and young people. For example, driving lessons, recycled furniture offer, bicycle scheme, boxing scheme and an out of county leisure offer were agreed due to advocacy from the Celebration Fund.

Developments during the reporting period include, created a new category to support young people with equipment and training to set up their own business and pursue a hobby for financial purposes. Awards have included hair and beard barber kit and eye lash extension course for care leavers. A 'Top Tips' document for writing successful applications was launched and new Celebration Fund panel members from the Virtual School, Fostering Service and Looked After Children service joined.

## Key Spending Themes

To provide further detail, below are some examples of the various applications awarded. The visuals below illustrate the various categories and types of awards granted over the year 2023/2024.



## 4.4 Boxing Offer

Active Surrey and Children’s Services secured funding from Sport England to launch a boxing offer for children and care leavers aged 12 – 25 years. In 2023/24 the Celebration Fund received 25 enquiries, resulting in 7 applications. No children and young people during this period have taken up the additional 6-month trial offer. The offer is being further promoted through foster carers and at events for children and young people in care.



Learn new **skills**,  
make **friends** &  
have **fun**.

Try  
boxing!



**The Boxing Offer is for CYP aged 12 – 25 years living in and out of Surrey.**

- 3-months membership at any Boxing for England affiliated clubs, with a possible extension to 6-months.
- Purchase of gloves and wrap (for CYP that extend initial 3-month membership).



## 4.5 Bicycle Scheme

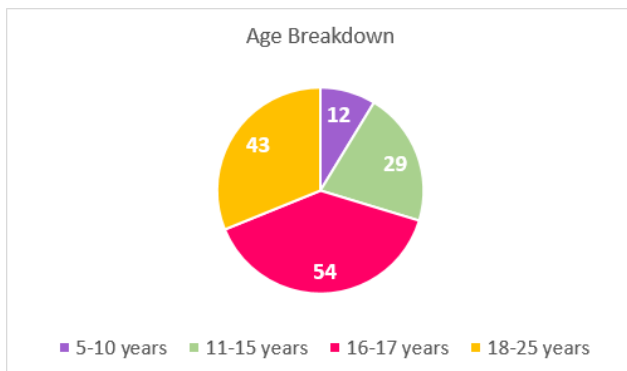
The Bike Scheme is now embedded into the corporate parenting service and local offer. Since the launch in September 2021 over 300 bikes with locks and helmets have been awarded. The Bike Scheme is funded by Active Surrey and Children’s Services, and it is helping many children and young people become healthy and active, and travel to school, college and work by bicycle which is saving money and protecting the environment.

During 2023/24 138 applications for bikes have been processed costing £17,485.00. By the end of the financial year it is estimated that £18,500 will have been awarded.

The table below shows that the majority of awards are for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, the table shows bike applications by borough council.

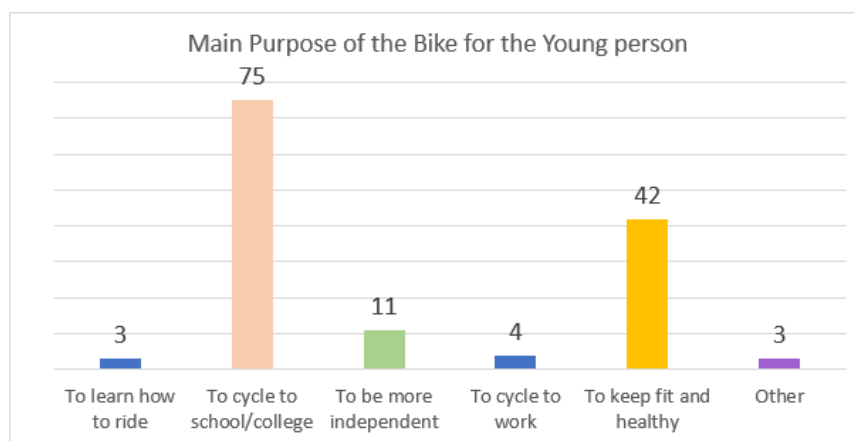
1st Apr 2023 to 17th Mar 2024	
UASC	82
Elmbridge	6
Epsom & Ewell	4
Guildford	5
Mole Valley	4
Reigate & Banstead	9
Runnymede	3
Spelthorne	7
Surrey Heath	7
Tandridge	0
Waverley	2
Woking	4
LCS locked	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>

Below tables show applications by quadrant and age breakdown.



The southeast quadrant submitted the greatest number of applications for bikes and the largest age group to benefit from the scheme are care leavers aged 16-17 years, followed by 18-25 years. It is clear to see the benefit of the bike scheme upon care leavers. 82 bikes were awarded to unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people during the reporting period.

**The table below indicates the main purpose children and young people request a bike**



The most common purpose for using a bike is to ‘travel to school or college,’ followed by ‘keeping fit and healthy.’

## 4.6 Care Leaver Covenant

The [Care Leaver Covenant](#) is a national inclusion programme which seeks to create opportunities that support care leavers aged 16 - 25 to live independent lives. There has been significant activity within the county council and its partners.

In consultation with care leavers, actions were agreed across six priority areas:

1. Raising awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant
2. Increasing education, employment and training opportunities and support
3. Creating more opportunities for care leavers through [Social Value](#)
4. Developing more discounts to help care leavers financially
5. Having a Whole Local Authority approach and promoting [Corporate Parenting Board](#) responsibilities
6. Better health and wellbeing support and provision

Surrey county council signed the Care Leaver Covenant (CLC) in April 2023 following consultation with care leavers, members of the corporate parenting board and the leaving care service. An action-plan was developed with 27 actions, following a 11-month period (April 2023-March 2024). To date, 20 actions have been fully implemented.



**Below is a snapshot of successful outcomes from the CLC action plan April 2023-24**

ACTION	LEAD	OUTCOME	
<b>Strand 1 - Raise awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant to CYP and wider SCC - ambassador: Michael Coughlin, Executive Director</b>			
1.5	Undertake a review of our 'Pledge Promises' and 'Corporate Parenting Strategy' & embed CLC values and priorities.	Tina Benjamin, Director of corporate parenting	The 2023-25 pledge promises & Corporate Parenting strategy have been refreshed & renewed.
			<b>Action Complete - Feb 2024</b>
<b>Strand 2 - Creating education, employment &amp; training opportunities for care leavers - ambassador: Cllr. Clare Curran, Cabinet Lead for Education &amp; Learning</b>			
2.1	Make it mandatory for every care leaver to have a CV before they leave care.	Cass Hardy, Assistant Headteacher Post 16, Virtual School	CL have the ability to build & update a CV throughout their care journey, supported by their PA & the VS. Every CL may leave care with a CV, if they wish.
			<b>Action Complete - Nov 2023</b>
2.3	Coordinate more (paid and unpaid) work experience opportunities across the council. Including more paid and voluntary work opportunities with SCC business partners (including health/education partners and local businesses). Create shadowing opportunities for care leavers.	Cass Hardy, Assistant Headteacher Post 16 - LEAD. Andrea Mowatt-Hall, Education & Employment Advisor Carolyn Jay, Community and Place Manager, Ringway	Ringways Highways Alliance has developed a social value (SV) offer to Surrey Care Leavers, two Surrey Care Leavers are currently on their Apprenticeship Programme and they will aim to have new starters in October 2024. ICB are recruiting upto 25 CL for apprenticeship health positions in 2024.
			<b>Action Complete - Feb 2024</b> <b>RECOMMENDATION for Phase-2</b>
<b>Strand 4 - Creating opportunities to support the economic development of care leavers - ambassador: Leigh Whitehouse, Deputy CEO &amp; Executive Director</b>			
4.3	Launch a 'Cost of Living' campaign to provide care leavers with energy saving equipment, such as 'air fryers' to reduce energy costs by up to 75%	Emma Kirkby, Leaving Care Team Manager and Racheal Ireton, corporate parenting project manager	Airfryers are being donated by local businesses & funding from Waitrose/private donations has been received. The fund provides CL with an air fryer once they have secured a tenancy agreement.
			<b>Action Complete - June 2023</b>
<b>Strand 6 - Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>			
<b>Ambassador - Cllr. Mark Nuti, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health</b>			
6.1	Develop of an out of county 'gym membership offer for care leavers' aged 18 – 25 years	Lawrie Baker, Head of Strategic Relationships, Active Surrey	An out of county gym pass scheme was launched in January 2024, in partnership with Hussle.com funded by the Celebration Fund.
			<b>Action Complete - Jan 2024</b>
6.4	Surrey Heartlands ICB as a signatory of the CLC, is 1 of 10 pilot sites across England NHS to provide EET support for care leavers up to 25 years. Surrey ICB will aim to recruit up to 25 Surrey care leavers by 2024	Linda Cunningham and Rachael Redwood, Designated Looked After Children's Nurses	A process to recruit 25 care leavers into health roles is underway.
			<b>Action Complete - Feb 2024</b>
6.5	Provide Free prescriptions for care leavers (in & out of county) up to 25 years.	Dr Sharon Kefford, Designated Dr for Looked After Children	A pre-paid prescription scheme was launched for care leavers and is available on the local offer.
			<b>Action Complete - April 2023</b>

Waitrose & Partners donated £2,000 for the cost-of-living campaign to support in the purchase of air fryers for care leavers. A total of 31 Air Fryers have been purchased for care leavers in 2023/24, totalling £1,437.54. Care leavers that sign a tenancy agreement receive an air fryer as a 'moving in gift.'

The introduction of the pre-paid prescription scheme and the out of county gym pass scheme are further examples of our dedication to fulfilling CLC commitments. In 2024 a second phase will be developed in consultation with care leavers, the wider service and CPB.

## 4.7 Universal Leisure Offer

In 2022 a leisure offer was launched for CYP and foster carers living in Surrey. Children's Services and Active Surrey have worked in partnership with 11 borough councils and 6 leisure operators to agree a universal leisure offer. Surrey is one of few county councils to agree such an offer accessible across the county.

Care leavers continue to benefit from the implementation of the Leisure Offer which enables free gym membership, free swimming access and 50% concessions on bookable classes and activities. Over 50% of eligible children and young people living in Surrey are utilising the offer, there is ongoing work required to maximise reach. We do know that usage of gym membership is low, however this is difficult to measure due to inconsistent leisure centre recording.

### APPLICATIONS TOTAL

A total of 767\* applications have been received by social workers and personal advisors.

#### Leisure scheme applications by quadrant

Quadrant	Value	%
NE	182	24%
SE	211	28%
NW	181	24%
SW	193	25%
Total	767	100%**

\* this is total applications received and includes out of county applications/duplicate applications /withdrawn applications.

\*\* these percentages are rounded up to the nearest whole figure so appear to total 101%

#### Leisure scheme applications by gender

Gender	Value	%
Female	268	35%
Male	499	65%
Total	767	100%

#### Foster Family (40 applications)

Quadrant	Value	%
NE	1	2%
SE	21	43%
NW	23	47%
SW	4	8%
Total	49	100%

## Looked after children and care leaver applications (718)

### Care Leavers (340 applications)

Quadrant	Value	%
NE	110	32%
SE	62	18%
NW	64	19%
SW	104	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>

Age	Value	%
16-17	11	3%
18-19	186	55%
20-21	94	28%
22-23	44	13%
24-25	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Looked After Children (378 applications)

Age	Value	%
0-4	33	9%
5-8	35	9%
9-12	47	12%
13-16	149	40%
17-18	114	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>

Quadrant	Value	%
NE	71	19%
SE	128	34%
NW	94	25%
SW	85	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.8 Out of county Gym Membership Scheme

The Celebration Fund previously funded Gym Memberships for children and young people placed out of county. For children placed in county, there is an agreement with selected leisure centre providers within the Districts and Boroughs to supply free access (Leisure Offer). From January 2024, a 6-month pilot scheme has been in place to provide free gym day passes for Care Leavers. This scheme was originally set up for care leavers living out of county, however this has been extended to all care leavers living both in and out of county.

A total of 73 requests were made between Jan-March 2024, providing care leavers with access to over 1,500 gym and spa facilities across the county.

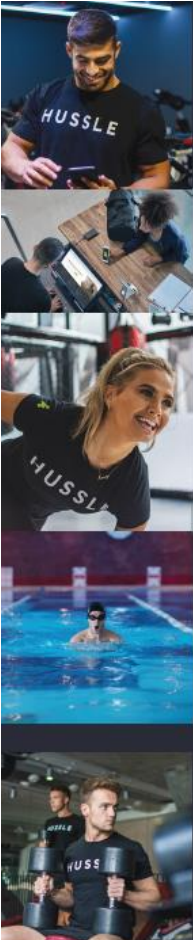
Care leavers living out of county may apply for a bundle of leisure passes per month, to allow a friend or a worker to accompany them to the gym.

#### The scheme is available to:

- All young people in care aged 16 years +
- Young people living IN and OUT-OF-COUNTY
- Eligible young people may bring a friend or their (PA/residential) key worker

It is intended that the out of county leisure offer will encourage care leavers to access a private or public run gym/spa local to where they may live in England.

In Autumn 2024 a report will highlight the impact of the pilot scheme on care leavers living out of county and provide recommendations for a long term gym scheme.



## FREE GYM DAY PASSES

Exclusive offer, valid at hundreds of **gyms and pools** via our fitness partner **Hussle**.



For Surrey young person with care experience aged 16 years+ who live in and outside of Surrey, plus one additional person.

**How it works:**

1. You will have been provided with a unique code for you, and a plus one
2. Follow the website link below and enter the unique code
3. Search for a gym or pool that you want to visit
4. Buy your Day Pass with an exclusive 100% discount
5. Revisit the link with a new code each time you want to claim a new pass

Claim your free pass:

[www.hussle.com/scc](http://www.hussle.com/scc)


**HUSSLE**


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## 5. OUTCOMES FROM THEMED CPB MEETINGS

In addition to a special meeting to review annual reports, the CPB held meetings under 5 key themes:

Theme
Health & Wellbeing
Education, Employment & Training
Safe and Stable Homes
Safeguarding
Skills & Preparation for Independence

### 5.1 Health & Wellbeing

Examples of actions and outcomes - Health & wellbeing	
✓	The CPB closely monitored dental checks as an area of concern for children looked after and care leavers. Additional capacity was sought and more CYP have been able to access dental appointments.
✓	Share data showing the performance of the service for children both inside and outside of Surrey in order that the Board can see the sufficiency of care for all looked after children outside of Surrey up to the 20-mile radius which New Leaf



	reach.
	Data was shared with members.
✓	Director to look at the South London Refugee Pledge in more detail to see if it will be advisable for Surrey to sign it. Director met with Big Leaf charity and is in discussion regarding signing the Pledge.
✓	Fostering service and foster care association are to develop an implementation plan for the Foster Care Charter, this will be monitored by the CPB. The CPB have requested details of the implementation plan and updates on progress.
✓	The CPB ratified the health strategy 2023 – 26 for looked after children and care leavers.
✓	In April 2023 the Board sponsored a project to establish pre-paid prescriptions for eligible care leavers.
✓	The ICB signing up to Care Leaver Covenant and has committed to recruit up to 25 care leavers in 2024-25.
✓	The CPB supported the launch of Surrey's first Foster Carer Charter.
✓	The CPB sponsored the launch of an out of county gym pass scheme for care leavers.

### Views from children and young people on health and wellbeing

A themed report to CPB included feedback from 53 young people, this included detailed feedback from 20 children aged 13 -18 and 33 YP aged 18-25. The presentation noted what good health and wellbeing looked like and what is not working so well.

Children and young people were asked to look back to 2022 to review what had changed against previous ambitions. 53% said previous ambitions had been achieved, 21% had mixed responses and 11% were unsure.

80% said they felt supported to manage their physical and mental wellbeing. 25% said mindfulness practises are working well to maintain good wellbeing. 21% are still concerned about their mental health and one of the reasons for this is the long waiting lists for services.

### Suggestions from CYP to take forward working with health:

- *More knowledge and information available to all CYP*
- *Better digital communication*
- *More regular check-ins with professionals*
- *Personalise physical & mental health support plans. Have a Wellbeing Mentor.*
- *Have more open communication*

## Next Steps

An action plan is in place which includes initiatives such as direct text messaging rather than having to go through personal advisors and social workers – this should support the team to reach more CYP. The Youth Pier Research Project is starting soon and a Communication Subgroup has been established by CPOG to oversee the communications activity of UVP.

## Health and wellbeing headlines

Dental statistics and access have significantly improved for children in care and care leavers. Figures are better than the general population, this is in a climate where there are issues around lack of dentists across the UK. Additional capacity has been sought and funding is agreed until 2024, health colleagues are looking to secure additional funding.

A multi-agency approach to Healthy Weight was discussed at Board in 2022-23. An evidenced based project has been established taking a multi-agency approach. A series of successful workshops began in March 2024 and members of the CPB and SC were invited to attend. The healthy weight project completed a large audit of children coming into care. Those with a healthy weight coming into care were 63.2%, in care (for 6 months to a year) with a healthy weight were 81%. Again, this is better than children in the general population. A recent survey was undertaken around healthy weight and 6 different areas of focus have been identified.

In line with care leaver covenant commitments, health colleagues launched a pre-paid prescription scheme for 18 – 21yr olds in April 2023. The scheme was launched in partnership with the leaving care service and promoted to care leavers living in and out of county. The take up has been low, this may be due to high numbers of care leavers being eligible due to factors such as, in full time education, claiming disability or benefits.

Multi agency work has improved data recording and reporting. A multi-agency audit was held face to face, so all participants got a better understanding of all the parts of the discussion and how their work fitted in with others. That audit findings were shared with the Healthy Outcomes Subgroup and CPOG for group for sign off.

New Leaf launched an Art Creative Day where CYP exhibited their artwork in a public place. They were able to express and talk about their mental health through art and showcase their skills. New Leaf have been developing a much more systemic way of working and are extending this offer and a family therapy offer to more families. The service plans to do more work with CYP and foster carers together and is planning a range of innovation initiatives for 2024.

Big Leaf is a small Surrey charity working with unaccompanied children and young people. The charity aims to create a community where displaced YP can be valued and supported to create better outcomes for themselves. Core values include Trust and Transparency, Equality, Youth Leadership & Growth. Big Leaf are working with young people from 23 different countries. Equality and being non-judgemental are key to improving outcomes. The charity has asked Surrey children's services to sign an Immigration Support Pledge which commits to four main actions in supporting looked after children and care leavers with immigration or nationality issues.

A new Surrey Foster Carer Charter was developed with a desire to be rolled out and embedded across Surrey's children services. The ethos of the charter is 'all children matter.' The Charter was developed by the foster care association and the fostering service. A recent meeting of the foster carer association

focussed on “building fostering communities” which is an agreement for all those working with children setting out clear expectations. The 3 key roles are for foster carers, corporate parents & the fostering service, each of the roles have different perspectives and different commitments laid out in the Charter. A foster carer Recruitment and Retention Board has been established to strengthen fostering in Surrey.

## 5.2 Education, Employment & Training

Examples of actions and outcomes – Education, employment & training	
✓	<p>A NEET task &amp; finish group was established by the board and chaired by a member. The purpose of the group was to understand barriers to EET and identify solutions.</p> <p>A report was presented to CPB and recommendations will be shared with the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board.</p>
✓	<p>The Foster Carers Portal: The Portal has a go live date of July 2024, and will address the key risk and issue around communication with Foster Carers, providing more support.</p>
✓	<p>Care leavers stated that they wanted more support with developing and updating a personal CV.</p> <p>A new CV builder tool was developed with training rolled out to personal advisors and practitioners supporting with care leavers.</p>
✓	<p>A successful Post 16 pupil premium pilot was implemented and evaluated by the virtual school. The pilot provided intensive mentoring to a small number of care leavers.</p> <p>Outcomes improved for participating care leavers and lessons learnt from the pilot are informing future work with care leavers.</p>
✓	<p>Young people were not systematically made aware of their financial and support entitlements when in higher education.</p> <p>A detailed higher education package for care leavers was published on the local offer for care leavers</p>

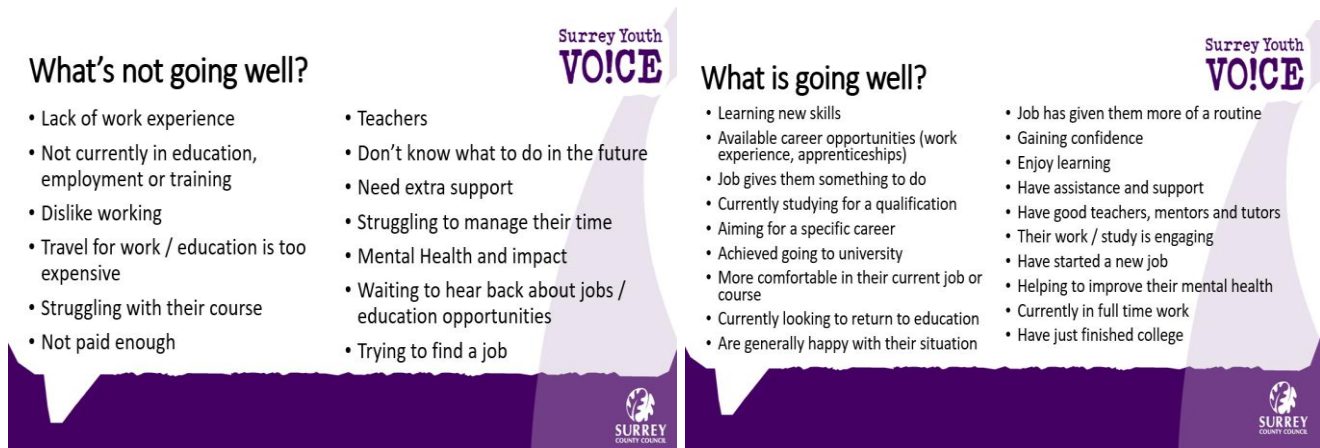
### Views from children and young people on education, employment and training

A survey looked at how care experienced young people’s experiences of education, employment & training have changed from 2022-23. The service received feedback from a total of 42 CYP age 13 – 25 years. Recommendations and ambitions from the previous year were shared and 55% agreed that improvements had been achieved since 2022-23.

Throughout the year, the Board has explored creative and dynamic methods to consult and share feedback from CYP. During this meeting, the Board were asked to engage in an activity to consider a statement from 2022 and decide if the amount for 2023 would be higher or lower, an example is below:

- In 2022, 17% of respondents were currently studying to get a qualification. This included GCSE's, apprenticeships, and college level qualifications.
- ✓ In 2023 it was HIGHER at 31%, this ranged from young people currently studying at university, learning, and earning on an apprenticeship or studying at school or college!

### CYP summarised what they felt was going well and not so well.



### Next Steps

The UVP service will work with the Virtual School to share feedback and key themes with the Board, from personal educational plans (PEPS), and other embedded listening mechanisms.

### Education, employment and training headlines

Surrey virtual school (SVS) positive impact on children looked after (CLA) progress, outcomes and education planning was cited by OFSTED in January 2022. CLA in primary education outperformed this group nationally for all measures in 2022.

71% of CYP gained qualifications at the end of Year 11 compared with 57% in 2019 and more transferred successfully to education, employment and training. In addition, 9 more care leavers started university during the reporting period. In 2022-23 there were on average 17% less CYP NEET than the previous year. 7 CYP received bursaries for independent school through the Royal Springboard Foundation and no CLA were permanently excluded. School suspensions were reduced compared with the previous year and 80% were in good/outstanding schools.

Personal Education Plans (PEP's) completion was 85%, with increases for Early Years and Post 16, 72% of PEPs were of good quality and 88% were shown to evidence the child's voice. A stable, fully staffed and expanded team is in place to support and deliver statutory and non- statutory duties towards the 3 groups of children in scope of the SVS, better links with carers, parents and guardians have been established.

### The SVS service plan 2023/24 has 5 main points of focus:

1. Achieving sustained and improved performance in the timeliness and high quality of Personal Education Plans for children in care.
2. Ensuring that all children's plans (children looked after, previously looked after and those with a social worker) recognise and draw on the protective factor of education and good school attendance.

3. Creating better opportunities for children and young people's views and voices to consistently influence their plans and the services they receive to support their education.
4. Ensuring that fewer children are 'not in school' due to not being on roll or through disrupted attendance.
5. Improving educational outcomes across all ages and phases of children and young people in care.

Approximately 2/3 of the CLA cohort have additional needs and over 30% have an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan). There is prioritisation for CLA in the assessment process and quadrant meetings are held regularly to progress stuck cases. There is both DfE and Code of Practice guidance on EHCP assessments, the service has produced a series of flow charts to explain the school admissions process for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) who have an EHCP and for those who do not, as this is a complex process.

The Care Leavers service, supported by Commissioning, was successful in securing funding for a mentoring programme in November 2023. Funding was released in January 2024 and the service has partnered with Goal 17, an experienced provider of mentoring services to offer mentoring to care leavers. The mentoring programme seeks to provide guidance and encouragement to care leavers in a range of ways. The first cohort of 25 care leavers has been identified and are being matched with mentors throughout March 2024. A further 35 care leavers will be supported during the programme.

A Task & Finish group met on eight occasions to look specifically at G5 NEET care leavers, the project aimed to understand challenges and support needs of NEET care leavers. The group looked at local and national data and sent out surveys to personal advisers operating in SE & NW of the county. It was decided to not contact NEET care leavers directly, due to engagement challenges. Some key themes from the work included:

<b>Key themes from the CPB NEET T&amp;F Group</b>
YP have a lack of relevant work experience
Difficulties with classroom learning
English speakers of other languages (ESOL) learning is too easy
YP have disrupted education experiences
Lack of routine and motivation of YP to be engaged in Education & Training
Mental Health – some YP going undiagnosed

Having good knowledge of needs, having good mental health and wellbeing support, and access to apprenticeship and college open days, were identified as supportive factors to engage NEET care leavers. Recommendations from the group were shared with the Health & Wellbeing Board.

## 5.3 Safe and Secure Homes

Examples of actions and outcomes – Safe and secure homes	
✓	<p>Two new children’s homes were built and opened (Walton and Epsom). A third brand new children’s home is being built in Dorking.</p> <p>The themed ‘Safe and Secure Homes’ meeting was held in a new home in Walton, this gave members the opportunity to view and experience a new home and meet new managers and residential workers.</p>
✓	<p>Housing provision across the county is inconsistent and care leavers are not always given high priority by their corporate parents.</p> <p>A new Housing Protocol for care leavers was launched in partnership with district and borough councils.</p>
✓	<p>YP said that they have significant difficulty with the theme that the CPB labelled ‘Sufficiency, Placements and Permanency’ because the meaning of those three words is not clear and YP struggle with calling their homes ‘placements.’</p> <p>The CPB agreed to change to the name of the theme to ‘Safe and Secure Homes.’</p>
✓	<p>Members of the CPB and Select Committee wished to have the opportunity to visit front line services and meet with staff and service users.</p> <p>Member visits were organised to front line visits with SEND, UVP and MindWorks. A workshop was held with Commissioning.</p>
✓	<p>There is a need to increase capacity of supported housing for care leavers within Surrey.</p> <p>Surrey CC has recently commissioned a pilot for Group Living for Care Leavers. Under this pilot 24 bedspaces will be delivered within an 18-month period across Surrey.</p>

### Views of children and young people on safe and secure homes

During this meeting a story was read to members taken from feedback from CYP. The story took listeners through a journey of multiple placement moves and asked members to share how they felt about the experience.

Comments such as, *scared, angry, powerless, unsure and frightened* were shared. On this occasion no themed survey was completed with CYP.

### Safe and secure homes headlines

There are 5 current priorities being looked at in order to provide better outcomes for CYP with improved efficient holistic support, for the fulfilment of statutory duties and to strengthen relationships and partnership working. As well as the 5 priorities, it has been agreed at Cabinet that every Looked After

Child has the choice to remain in Surrey where that is appropriate to their needs. 80% of CYP living in county is the aspirational goal by 2030.

There are challenges to sufficiency including, national pressures, increased demand, increased Ofsted scrutiny and unlawful placements for under 16-year-olds. Recently the Outcomes First Group, one of the largest national providers announced the closure of 28 homes in the Midlands and North which puts pressures in other areas.

There are pressures with recruiting and retaining foster carers, several factors influence this, including the high cost of living. However, conversion rates from inquiry to approval are better than the national average at 8%. Carer resignations are down this year and member, Cllr. Maureen Attewell will be part of the newly reintroduced Recruitment and Retention Board to look at this in detail. There is a target to recruit 30 new foster carers and work is being undertaken with the family group conferencing service to support early identification of family members. An investment in strategic marketing will include regular events and face to face and online information sessions.

Support for carers includes relaunching the Foster Carer Charter, working with Gateway to Resources to ensure good matches with foster carers where children are placed out of county and looking at how children can be brought back to Surrey, if this is in their best interest. Foster carer allowances were increased and the service plans to implement the use of support workers as foster carers said they missed this support. The fostering service undertook a practise learner view in April 2023 and the outcome of this will be in the plan for the next 12 months.

Adoption is run regionally and not by each local authority. Surrey are part of the South East Regional Adoption Agency. There are around 40 children in county at any one time on the adoption pathway. Outcomes for 2022/23 for numbers of CLA who left care by being adopted was 8% (31 children), this is higher than the regional figure of 4%.

In 2022 Summerset law (Case Law) introduced parents being assessed by medical advisors. Some local authorities were not doing this well therefore, all local authorities were asked to check the process was complete. This impacted adoption during 2022. In Surrey, 24 under 5 years were adopted, and x 7 over 5 years. 6 years is usually the highest age for adoption and foster carers do sometimes adopt those children they care for. Gender of adopted children, 18 male and 13 female and of that cohort 29 were identified as white and 2 non-white.

In relation to Supported Accommodation providers Surrey county council have a framework of 'block' Supported Accommodation providers. These are providers who have accommodation in Surrey who have gone through a tender process and have been evaluated as evidencing that they are able to meet the needs of Surrey CYP. We have a range of providers across Surrey who offer a variety of accommodation and support arrangements. These include larger shared accommodation options, shared houses and individual accommodation such as studio flats or bedsits. The support will either be 24/7 having at least one member of staff present in the accommodation at all times, or floating support where a member(s) of staff provides support sessions to young people living without a member of staff present in the accommodation. For our block Supported Accommodation the minimum amount of individual support for each young person is 5 hours a week.

In addition to the block framework of Supported Accommodation providers, Surrey has recently commissioned a pilot for Group Living for Care Leavers. Under this pilot 24 bedspaces will be delivered within an 18-month period across Surrey. This pilot is intended to provide a move on pathway to independence for Leaving Care and older Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children aged 18-24 years.

The 24 bedspaces will be provided across x 6 for-bed properties which are owned by Surrey county council. 12 hours of floating support will be provided per house per week as well as out of hours emergency support. The 12 hours of floating support will cover both individual support and group activities.

## 5.4 Safeguarding

Examples of actions and outcomes – Safeguarding	
✓	Chair to ensure that either an update meeting regarding the Surrey Foster Carers' Charter is scheduled or that a written update including dates is sent to all Members of the Board.
	The Board have advocated for an implementation plan to be established and updates shared with Board members. Board to lead on its implementation and CPOG to oversee.
✓	Headteacher of Surrey Virtual School to provide Virtual School heads in other local authorities with the contact details of the Child Exploitation & Hidden Crimes Manager and their team.
	This action was complete.
✓	The Headteacher of Surrey Virtual School to follow up with the Project Manager regarding their queries about the wording of the Pledge Promises document.
	Wording has been finalised to the pledge document, including a requested change of name of the theme: sufficiency, permanence & planning, to 'safe and stable homes.'
✓	A key achievement related to the Family Safeguarding Phase 2 project: Family Safeguarding Leads delivered workshops to nearly 2000 practitioners, including external partners.
✓	Return home interviews have been reviewed through dip-sampling by quality assurers and are regarded as high quality.

### Views of children and young people on safeguarding

42 young people shared their detailed views on safeguarding, 27 of these lived within Surrey and 14 lived out of county. 26% were under 18 years and 50% were aged 19 to 21 years. YP were asked to give feedback on whether recommendations from the previous year had been met. 47% agreed, 22% disagreed and 31% were unsure.

Key recommendations from feedback gathered in the previous year were related to *housing, life skills and communication*.

The three key themes around what makes YP feel safe are:

1. Having their own space
2. Having physical safety
3. Having people around them that they know and trust.

Many respondents described 'safety' as having a place to live that is a "home." Many respondents also noted that being supported by the right people was important for safety.



Staff teams are working on reducing the institutional language that might be used and working hard to help children feel that they are in a home rather than placements. The National House Project will be beneficial for building a sense of community and peer support within YP's networks as they move into independent living.

### **Next steps and recommendations for 2024**

- *Looked After Children's Services should share the work that they are carrying out to promote friendships and support networks.*
- *PAs or social worker matches should be specific to each individual YP.*
- *A review should be carried out to understand why the Surrey How Do I? series was unsuccessful.*
- *Relationships with police should be improved.*
- *Continue to improve housing and accommodation standards*

UVP will continue to support service development and raise 'action cards' where appropriate.

### **Safeguarding headlines**

Across Surrey, approximately 165 children are currently identified as either at risk or experiencing exploitation. Within the looked after children cohort, the number of children both male and female are very similar. In 2023, around 1,400 children experienced a period of being looked after. Return home interviews have been reviewed through dip-sampling by quality assurers and are regarded as high quality however, the timescale for completing return home interviews could be improved. We currently have approx. 343 children looked after by another local authority, of those 190 are over 10 years old.

Within Children's Social Care Transformation, there is a focus on three key themes: *Practice, Sufficiency and Workforce*. These themes have led to the creation of the following pillars: *Family Resilience, Safeguarding Corporate Parenting and Recruitment, Retention & Culture*. A key achievement related to the Family Safeguarding Phase 2 project: funding was secured for six months, with Hertfordshire county council providing support under a sector led improvement partnership. Within the Recruitment, Retention & Culture (RRC) Programme, there has been a focus around recruitment and retention of the social worker workforce under five key workstreams: *Exploration, Attraction, Engagement, Development and Succession Planning*.

The User Voice and Participatipon team carried out extensive work with YP to agree new Pledge Promises. UVP received a lot of feedback about language, both in terms of terminology and simplifying information. The team has been able to incorporate this into the draft strategy.

- All YP were broadly in agreement with the nine pledges, with 64% confirming that they are the right pledges to make to them.
- The YP provided a lot of feedback about implementation, highlighting the need to fulfil the nine pledges and not make promises that can't be kept. The strategy is therefore about how the pledge is implemented in practice.
- The YP provided feedback about other things that they might want to see in pledges: *financial support, housing, mental health awareness, helping YP understand the role of the Council, listening to YP about their PAs or social workers.*

## 5.5 Skills & Preparation For Independence

Examples of actions and outcomes – Skills & Preparation for Independence	
✓	<p>The three most important issues raised by CYP which have been highlighted over successive years are (1) Financial Education, (2) Surrey “How Do I” Independence Programme and (3) Support for Emotional Wellbeing &amp; Mental Health.</p> <p>The Board have requested the establishment of a Task Group to adequately respond to the above three issues.</p>
✓	<p>Provide data for the previous 3 years on how many Looked After Children &amp; Care Leavers are in suitable accommodation, so the Board may review progress made.</p> <p>Action agreed in March 2024 – no outcome finalised when writing CPB annual report.</p>
✓	<p>Further information to be provided on the 6 District &amp; Boroughs who provide tenancy support to care leavers and a case made to determine if this can be made universal.</p> <p>Action agreed in March 2024 – no outcome finalised when writing CPB annual report.</p>
✓	<p>Provide a summary to the Board of information collected in terms of the views of YP whilst monitoring block providers.</p> <p>Action agreed in March 2024 – no outcome finalised when writing CPB annual report.</p>
✓	<p>Relevant open action cards are to be highlighted within the UVP feedback at each meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Action agreed in March 2024 – no outcome finalised when writing CPB annual report.</p>
✓	<p>Find out what information is shared with care leavers who are eligible to vote. Include information on ‘how to vote’ in independence packs given out by IRO’s at YP’s final review.</p> <p>Action agreed in March 2024 – no outcome finalised when writing CPB annual report.</p>

## Views of children and young people

Based on the research, 7 key areas of support were identified under the theme of Skills and Preparation for Independence. The report was collated from views of CYP that responded to the BrightSpots survey and Post 18 PEP's.

### Key highlights

- Young people do want more support in some areas when preparing for independence, including on-going support for their emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- They would like this support to be targeted to their specific age and context.
- They would also like to continue playing a role in shaping this support.
- Key workers, foster carers and other trusted adults in their support network play the most important role in preparing for independence.

### Next steps

- ✓ UVP team, Corporate Parenting services and health partners, together with young people, to jointly redesign the Surrey How Do I? series, with a new approach: Resources for key workers and foster carers, along with a campaign to highlight the important role for these adults in preparing young people for independence.
- ✓ Online resources for young people, especially video content.
- ✓ Adding skill building into planned UVP groups and other Corporate Parenting and partner events.
- ✓ Review and update the Care Leavers Offer webpages.
- ✓ UVP continue to capture feedback from young people, with more concrete examples of what support and resources have been most helpful.
- ✓ Young people form part of the steering group that oversees the National House Project rollout in Surrey. This project has a heavy focus on independent living skills and peer support.
- ✓ Corporate Parenting Operations Group to progress and report on the four open action cards related to this theme.

## Skills and preparation for independence headlines

92% of Surrey care leavers between the ages of 16 - 25 are living in suitable accommodation, with 67% of 17-18 year olds and 60% of 19-21 year olds recorded as being in receipt of education, employment, or training (EET). The leaving care service has been "in touch" with 97% of care leavers over the course of the last year and had contact with 90% of care leavers within the last two months.

The bespoke approach to the education of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people encompasses an assessment of English and first language skills delivered by the local authority's Race and Ethnic Minority Achievement (REMA) service, access to interpreters where needed, provision of a dictionary, laptop and online ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language) teaching, one-to-one tuition for those who are between education placements and access to a range of educational and developmental activities developed by Big Leaf, a specialist charity for displaced

young people. As of March 2024, the Virtual School is supporting 153 UASC, 38 of whom are of statutory school age and 114 in Years 12 and 13.

As of March 2024, there were 325 young people in the Virtual School's Years 12 and 13 cohort (16–18-year-olds) of whom 62, or 19% were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This compares to a cohort size of 345 at the same time last year, of whom the same proportion were not in education, employment or training. The NEET rate fluctuates throughout the year but is monitored monthly and interventions identified for those who are without activity. It has reduced by 3% since the end of November 2023, when many young people had been withdrawn from college or decided it was not for them. Since 2021, when we reduced NEET from a historic norm of around 30% to 16%, we have been able to fully implement our new approach which was developed using DfE pilot funding for post-16, which means that the NEET rate has stabilised and a range of support and interventions are now available as part of our standard offer.

The Virtual School continues to fund the Grand Mentors scheme, match-funded by 'Volunteering Matters.' After reviewing the impact of this mentoring on previous recipients, we have taken the decision to target former unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people who are now care leavers and NEET. Case studies have shown that this group finds the support available particularly beneficial, and mentors are able to offer young people further opportunities to practice their English alongside advice and practical help in achieving their education, training and employment aims.

A fair rent policy is in development specifically considering the challenges faced by care leavers who are working but may have reduced entitlement to benefits which would support with rent payments and the difficulties this presents in rent affordability. The leaving care service has continued to offer financial support via the Rent Guarantor Scheme for care leavers who are able to evidence their independence skills and manage a tenancy appropriately.

For care leavers in social housing tenancies, approximately half of Surrey's District and Boroughs provide tenancy support for up to the first 6 months of the tenancy, there is not a universal offer. The Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers has been finalised and implemented. There is a current training programme being delivered by the service and colleagues in housing to all relevant practitioners across both agencies to support understanding and collaborative working. A key component of this is the early registration of young people at 16 for social housing alongside ensuring preparation for independence work is already underway. The service has continued to encourage care leavers to register with more than one borough in Surrey to increase the likelihood of securing social housing tenancies whilst also exploring privately rented options.

Surrey County Council (SCC) is collaborating with the National House Project to deliver a Local House Project (LHP) for SCC. The project operates nationally and has a strong evidence base supporting its ability to maintain tenancies for young people and prevent homelessness. It has also been successful in creating communities for young people to remain part of even after they have left the accommodation, simultaneously addressing concerns care leavers have voiced regarding isolation and loneliness. The LHP aims to enable 10 Surrey looked after children and care leavers each year to progress into their own tenancies. This model requires SCC to partner with District and Borough Housing departments and local housing associations to provide tenancies. Young People will co-design the project, gain skills, knowledge and confidence through the LHP and will gain AQA accreditation while on the programme.

## 6. SUMMARY



This has been somewhat of a transformational year for the corporate parenting board. Sponsored projects have made excellent progress in establishing new and improved offers for CYP. A pre-paid prescription scheme for care leavers, an out of county leisure offer, Air Fryer campaign for care leavers, are just some examples of service development driven by listening to the needs of CYP with lived experience. The ambitious Capital Programme has built two new homes and is providing quality supported accommodation for a large number of care leavers, in Surrey.

Through the adoption of the Care Leaver Covenant in 2023, members will continue to ask, *'Is this good enough for my child?'* and advocate for better provision and opportunities for care leavers to live independent and successful lives. In 2024 ambitious new Covenant priorities will be established in consultation with care leavers and services across the county council.

The Board has a refreshed Forward Plan 2024/25 that puts CYP at the centre of our work. Members are keen to explore dynamic ways to meaningfully engage and communicate with children and young people in our care. Sponsored events, including the Children's Summer event in July 2024 and Care leavers-week autumn event, will provide further opportunities to showcase the outstanding achievements of CYP and the commitment of Surrey Children's Services and its partners, to be outstanding corporate parents.

The new Foster Carer Charter has agreed a set of joint principles with foster carers to support the way we work together in the best interest of Surrey children. The Charter will help us to raise practice standards and measure our improvement journey.

A young person version of this annual report will be made available in the coming months and we are excited to be piloting co-chairing of Board meeting by a care experienced young person. This is going to be an exciting and busy year ahead and we look forward to providing an update on our progress in 2024-25.

# Annex 1. Corporate Parenting Board Forward Plan 2023/24



13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 CPOG – 04.06.2024	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 CPOG – 30.07.2024	02 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024 CPOG – 29.10.2024
<b>1. Annual Reports</b>	<b>2. Safe &amp; stable homes</b>	<b>3. Education, Employment &amp; Training</b>
<b>No Standing agenda items</b> (1) Children's Homes Annual report (2) CPB Annual report (3) Children's Social Care Transformation update	<b>Standing agenda items</b> (1) Sufficiency, permanence & placements (2) IRO annual report (3) Adoption annual report	<b>Standing agenda items</b> (1) Virtual School annual report & care leavers (2) Looked after children and SEND (3) Fostering annual report (4) Children's Social Care Transformation update
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 CPOG – 17.12.2024	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 CPOG – 04.02.2025	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 CPOG – 08.04.2025
<b>4. Health, Wellbeing &amp; CAMHS</b>	<b>5. Safeguarding children looked after &amp; care leavers</b>	<b>6. Preparation for Independence</b>
<b>Standing agenda items</b> (1) Surrey Heartlands ICB report (2) EWMH – MindWorks and New Leaf (3) Big Leaf Project	<b>Standing agenda items</b> (1) Criminal exploitation, missing & contextual safeguarding (2) Corporate parenting strategy (3) Children's Social Care Transformation update	<b>Standing agenda items</b> (1) Moving towards independence (care leaver report). (2) Independent skills, leisure, culture & life skills

## Annex 2. Glossary of Acronyms

ACME	Area Children Missing Education
AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
ASDAN	Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network
ASE	Adoption Southeast
BC	Borough Council
CYP/CYP	Children and Young People with care experience
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CLA	Child looked after
CLC	Care Leaver Covenant
CME	Children Missing & Exploited
CPB	Corporate Parenting Board
CPOG	Corporate Parenting Operational Group
CSH	Central Surrey Heath
D&B	District & Borough
DFE	Department For Education
EET	Education, Employment & Training
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages
EWMH	Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health
FCE	Foster Care Executive
HOSG	Health Outcomes Sub-Group
IHA	Initial Health Assessment
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
IRO	Independent Review Officer
IV	Independent Visitor
KLOE	Key Lines of Inquiry
LCS	Leaving Care Service
LCS	Liquid logic Children's Social Care System Software
LMCS	Lead Member of Children's Services
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NTS	National Transfer Scheme
NWD	No Wrong Door
PA	Personal Advisor
PEP	Personal Education Plans
PVO	Placement Value Outcomes
REMA	Race equality & Minority Achievement
SAL	Surrey Adult Learning
SCC	Surrey County Council
SCIFF	Social Care Common Inspection Framework
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHS	Surrey Healthy Schools
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SVS	Surrey Virtual School

UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
UVP	User Voice & Participation (team)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association



CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE  
SELECT COMMITTEE



Tuesday, 30 July 2024

## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**Purpose of the report:** The Select Committee is apprised of the latest CFL performance information, which consists of:

- (a) Key indicators in children's social care measuring progress made in Ofsted recommendations following the January 2022 inspection of Surrey Local Authority Children's Services;
- (b) Key indicators relating to the additional needs strategy and tracking performance of the EHCP timeliness recovery plan;
- (c) Turnover of social workers and foster carers to measure progress in the Children's Recruitment, Retention and Culture Workforce Planning Strategy;
- (d) External assessments of all areas within the Committee's remit.

### Recommendation:

Note that Members reviewed the information at the Practice Improvement and Performance Information meeting on 22 July.

### Next Steps:

The Select Committee will use the performance overview to inform Committee business.

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### Report contact

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# Children's Social Care Key Indicators

Metrics - KPI component	What is the KPI/Target where applicable	What is the statistical benchmark for National/Comparable LAs		Figure for: April	April RAG	Figure for: May	May RAG	Figure for: June	June RAG	RAG Narrative
Number of CSPA contacts received	N/A	N/A		4412		5138		4865		May saw the highest volume of contacts in 12 months but Contacts received remains in line with the 12 month rolling average of 4511 with some month-to-month fluctuation .
Number and percentage of contacts progressed to social care	N/A	N/A		747 17%		932 18%		748 15%		Of the 4865 contacts overall, 1107 contacts progressed to children's social care for further consideration in June. 748 resulted in a C&F assessment – a conversion rate of 15%. These are families who have consented to involvement or where child protection processes are in play.
4.2 Re-referrals to Children's Services	15 - 20%	21%	23%	23%	R	18%	G	20%	G	The Re-referral rate came back within target in May & June. Out of 796 referrals in June, 164 children had had a previous referral in the last 12 months. C-Spa are reviewing the history of these referrals and will bring a report to CFL Leadership in August.
4.3 Proportion of Assessments completed within 45 working days	100%	82%	84%	91%	A	93%	A	95%	A	There has been some fluctuation over the Quarter but the Assessment Service which undertakes most assessment activity individually achieved 97% timely completion in June. FST South achieved 100% timeliness with an improving picture in other service areas with clearly identified areas for improvement. Performance against comparator authorities is good.
5.2 Number of Children in Need	N/A	N/A		1999		2064		1982		There is variability month on month, but within an understood range. Our Family Safeguarding model envisages that most children will be offered services at lower tier interventions, so it is likely that CIN will increase over time. .
5.2 Child In Need Visits up to date	100%	N/A		88%	R	83%	R	84%	A	Work to understand this as part of the preparation for the recent Focused Visit suggested that visits were taking place but that the logging of these on the child's record in good time is an ongoing issue that needs to be resolved. There is mixed performance across all service areas, although CWD achieved 93% timeliness. This will be raised at the next Countywide Performance PLT on July 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
6.2 Proportion of S47 Enquiries with an outcome of Initial Child Protection Conference	N/A	33%	34%	33%		29%		31%		June saw 171 Section 47 investigation commence with 53 progressing to ICPC. This is in line with previous longer term percentage patterns which suggests there is a consistent number of families who will meet threshold for further work under CP processes
6.3 Child Protection volumes and rate	N/A	43.0	41.0	577 22.0		567 21.6		573 21.8		There has been an ongoing reduction in the number of children on CP Plans., but June saw a slight increase on the previous month. Overall, more children are diverted to CIN responses in line with our Family Safeguarding model. There is a clear divergence from National/Comparator benchmarking as a result, but this is an expected & accepted outcome of our practice mode.
6.4 Initial Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	100%	78%	78%	76%	R	92%	A	87%	R	This indicator has seen variable performance over the Quarter. There has been comprehensive work within the Independent Reviewing Service and local Business Support to try and get timely notification of the need for ICPC

										so that other time sensitive processes are managed well. 10 out of 77 ICPCs were late in June. These relate to 4 workers and sit within NW Assessment 2 and Adolescent Service East. The respective managers have been asked to follow up the issues.
6.5 Child Protection Plan repeat in 2 years	10% - 15%	N/A		2%	R	18%	R	10%	G	Although there is no national indicator assigned to this area, the number of children returning to child protection plans within 2 years is an area for scrutiny to understand the rationale for CP Planning rather than other responses. We have set an "expected" return rate of between 10% & 15% hence the RAG rating in April & May. There is ongoing analysis of returning children's situations through the Independent Reviewing Service.
6.6 Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	100%	88%	90%	98%	A	98%	A	98%	A	As has been referenced previously the Independent Reviewing Service is much more in control of the outcomes for this indicator and the higher performance reflects this. 13 children from 4 families did not have a Review Conference in time in June
6.7 Proportion of children subject to a CP Plan for over 24 months	2%	2.2%	2.3%	5.9%	R	5.8%	R	5.9%	R	30 children have been on CP Plans for more than 2 years. There is nothing within data suggesting that this is a particular issue for individual Teams or individual Child Protection Chairs. Most children are on Plans under the category of Neglect, which may mean that Conference needs to review whether CP planning is the best vehicle to address any entrenched issues. The Service Manager QA will review these children and report back to Countywide Performance PLT in September.
6.8 Children subject to a CP Plan seen in the last 10 working days	100%	N/A		88%	R	88%	R	82%	R	As with other KPI's there is variable performance against this target between and within Service areas. FST South is performing well in this area and other service areas have a similar level of performance pro-rata. 9 teams achieved 100% timeliness. Individual teams can have very different performance but because of the low volumes some of this may be related to one worker or one family rather than a lack of management oversight & grip. 49 children did not have a visit within time in June. Of these the majority at 25 were overdue by 1-3 days. Analysis of those 13 children who were overdue by 3 weeks and more shows a picture of family disengagement from the CP process or adolescent young people refusing to engage with the social worker. Management oversight was visible but there is a need to consider return to Conference early if disengagement becomes normalised.

Metrics - KPI component	What is the KPI/Target where applicable	What is the statistical benchmark for National/Comparable LAs		Figure for: April		April RAG	Figure for: May		May RAG	Figure for: June		June RAG	Narrative to attach to the RAG ratings
7.1 Number of Looked After Children and rate per 10k	N/A	71	49	981	37.4		985	37.5		978	37.2		The number of children in care has been stable over the Quarter, with the LAC per 10K figure remaining around 37 since December 2023. There have been concerted efforts to divert children from care and in particular late entry adolescents.
7.1 Number of Care Leavers	N/A	N/A		807			806			799			The number of Care Leavers has also seen a decrease as more young people age out than come in.
7.2 Looked After Children with up to date Reviews	100%	N/A		94%		A	93%		A	93%		A	Performance has improved over the year but there are monthly fluctuations within a narrow band. . Analysis shows that most Reviews that are out of time are the first Review set at 4 weeks from care entry, suggesting that the difficulty is logistical.
7.3 Looked After Children statutory visits	100%	N/A		97%		A	94%		A	88%		A	June saw a fall in LAC visit timeliness. This is related to issues within Tableau which defaulted to a visiting frequency of 12 weeks when a child was in care continuously for 12 months. This has now been rectified with a manual change where necessary for those children who are on 12 week visiting frequencies.
7.7 Looked After Children Initial Health Assessments completed	100%	N/A		88%		R	87%		R	89%		R	There is consistent performance over the Quarter. There is no significant difference in overall numbers having an IHA but children placed outside of Surrey are less likely to have one within time. 17% of children placed out of county did not have a timely initial review compared to 9% in County.
7.8 Looked After Children Review Health Assessments completed	100%	89%	91%	90%		A	89%			91%		A	
7.9 Looked After Children Dental Checks completed - in care more than 1 year	100%	76%	79%	90%		R	89%		R	89%		R	This indicator shows an improved picture overall as the impact of the pandemic filters out. Although not meeting our aspirational target performance locally is significantly better than national/stat neighbour. 36 children, all within the adolescent cohort refused a dental assessment
7.13 Looked After Children Short Term Placement Stability	9%	10%	11%	12.1%		R	11.8%		R	10.2%		R	Short term stability has seen marginal improvement and is just below comparator authorities/National average. There is no difference between children placed In County or Out. 102 children have had 3 or more placement moves most of whom are in the adolescent cohort.
7.14 Looked After Children Long Term Placement Stability	75%	69%	67%	69%		A	70%		A	71%		A	We are slightly above national/comparator indicators and are moving closer to our own target. Long term stability appears more likely when young people are retained "in County" and are younger. However, this indicator has remained within a 4% swing for 12 months.
7.15 Looked After Children placed over 20 miles from Surrey	20%	17%	25%	36%		R	36%		R	35%		R	Given some of the above indicators retaining children in County can have a significant impact on outcomes. Work within Fostering & Gateway to identify fostering households who are not caring for children is ongoing, although early indicators suggest that these carers have valid reasons but are also supporting other carers even if they do not have children with them currently. 345 children are cared for more than 20 miles from home and out of county. 32 are more than 20 miles from home but within county. The majority of children and young people at 466 are cared for within 20 miles from home. .
7.6 Personal Education Plans – Quality Termly	100%	N/A											Spring term 2024 Quality of PEPs The improvement seen in PEP quality during the Autumn term 2023 has continued into Spring 2024 and key features of exemplary PEPs (from 'gold' rated PEPs) have been shared with schools, together with how to progress from 'green' (good) to

										<p>'gold' (outstanding). 87% of statutory school age PEPs (compared with 83% Autumn term) and 81% of all PEPs including early years and post 16 (compared with 79% Autumn term) were of good quality. 11% of PEPs were rated 'red' compared with 12% last term, with feedback given to Designated Teachers in all instances.</p> <p>The aspirational quality assurance framework introduced for statutory school age in September 2023 will also be introduced for post 16 PEPs in September 2024. Overall, PEP completion increased from 85% to 92% compared to the same school term last year. The PEP completion rate for children of statutory school age (SSA) has increased to 97% from a previous high of 95% in Autumn 2023. SVS's continued strong focus on the early years has resulted in PEP completion rate continuing to rise from 82% last term, to 92%. This reflects stronger engagement with the process particularly in the early years and post 16 – and positions us well to improve quality further.</p>
7.12 Pathway plans – Looked After Children	100%	N/A		98%	A	98%	A	99%	a	<p>Pathway Plans for all children are at a very good position at the end of the Quarter. For children at 16/3 months 100% of Pathway Plans for children 16/3 months in April were completed on time. 71% in May and 95% in June although this equates to 4 children and 1 child respectively.</p>
8.2 Care Leavers in Contact with Surrey	95%	N/A		93%	A	94%	A	92%	A	<p>There are 11 care leavers between 17-21 who are not in touch with the LA bringing the percentage down to 92% . In Touch performance is in line with national averages.</p>
8.3 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 17-18 in suitable accommodation	100%	91%	88%	90%	A	91%	A	88%	R	<p>4 young people who are in receipt of a Care Leaving Service are in unsuitable accommodation. 3 are in custody and one is in a transitional stage from semi-independent accommodation.</p>
8.3 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	90%	88%	89%	94%	G	94%	G	94%	G	<p>Care Leaver accommodation suitability is at very good levels and above the Surrey target and that of statistical neighbours. This indicator suggests that the majority of young people are in accommodation that is of a good standard and is meeting their needs. 294 is the biggest group of young people living in Semi-independent accommodation.</p>
8.4 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 17-18 in education, employment and training (EET)	75%	66%	66%	71%	A	74%	A	72%	A	<p>Performance in the area of EET shows some variability over the Quarter, almost reaching the internal target in May. It is an area of vulnerability within the new ILACS Care Leaver domain, but there are consistent efforts, including young people's attendance at EET surgeries to identify and respond to barriers to learning/training.</p>
8.4 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment and training (EET)	65%	56%	59%	59%	A	60%	A	59%	A	
9.2 LAC Missing Children Going Missing in the Month	N/A	12,740	92	56		40		16		<p>There were 48 Looked After Children who went missing in June on a total of 108 times. Of these, 22 agreed to a Return Home Interview. There is no significant difference between districts within county of where children go missing and similar levels of young people go missing when placed out of county. Analysis evidences robust application of Missing processes including Strategy Meetings for applicable young people.</p>
10.1 Child Supervision recorded to timescale	90%	N/A		84%	A	83%	A	81%	A	<p>Supervision on children's case records has fallen back month on month over the Quarter. Some services are performing better than others, with strength in the Care Leavers service, some variability within LAC teams and individual team performance across other services showing a range of performance. CWD Family Support on 97% timeliness and Adolescent Social Work with a very mixed picture. It is clear that staffing challenges in the North and West of the county are continuing to impact.</p>

# HOW DO WE MEASURE THE IMPACT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP?

## Quantitative and qualitative impact summary data



This is the agreed summary of KPIs to be monitored termly by the Additional Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board. We have a more comprehensive data set to support this, which is aligned to each of the seven priority areas.

Priority	Measure	Target	Previous	Latest	DoT	Notes
Early Identification & Support	SEN support notifications	n/a	128 (May 23)	264 (May 24)	↑	Monthly
	Early Years Development checks	69%	75.6% (Q2)	69.3% (Q3)	↓	Quarterly
Inclusion in Education and Community	Number of Children missing education	n/a	121 (Apr 24)	121 (May 24)	-	Monthly
	Proportion of pupils with EHCP who are persistently absent	37.3%	36.6% (HT1-5 22/23)	34.3% (HT1-5 23/24)	↓	Half termly
	Proportion of pupils on SEN Support who are persistently absent	32.7%	24.3% (HT1-5 22/23)	26.0% (HT1-5 23/24)	↑	Half termly
Joint Commissioning, Sufficiency and Evaluation	Waiting time – SLT, patients waiting over 18 weeks	0	24 (Mar 24)	38 (Apr 24)	↑	Monthly
	Number of <u>MindWorks</u> referrals	n/a	2647 (Mar 24)	2489 (Apr 24)	↓	Monthly
	Waiting list – <u>MindWorks</u> (ND pathway) - no. of working days until first appointment	tbc	238 (Mar 24)	248 (Apr 24)	↑	Monthly
Systems and Practice	Timeliness of EHCP assessments for plans issued in month (completed in 20 weeks)	60% interim target	28% (Apr 24)	53% (May 24)	↑	Monthly
	Number of overdue EP advice requests	0	42 (Apr 24)	20 (May 24)	↓	Monthly
	Number of overdue EHCPs (inclusive of the cases with an overdue EP advice request, excluding appeals)	tbc	172 (Apr 24)	81 (May 24)	↓	Monthly, may include completed cases not yet recorded
	% Outstanding or Good grading given to an individual EHC plan section during auditing	-	26% Jan 2024 (recovery plans)	22% April 24 (recovery plans)	↓	Termly
	% of CYP with an up-to-date Annual Review recorded (recovery work underway to ensure that all completed reviews are recorded)	65%	42% (Apr 24)	45% (May 24)	↑	Monthly
	No. of complaints as % of EHCPs	-	5.4% (2022)	5.0% (2023)	↓	Stage 1 Complaints
	No. of active tribunals		426 (Mar 24)	491 (Apr 24)	↑	Monthly
	SEND tribunal rate as a % of appealable decisions	3%	4.1% (2021)	4.6% (2022)	↑	Annual

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## Performance against targets in EHCP Recovery Plan

### Revised modelling for Education, Health and Care plans within the 20-week statutory timeframe

Month in which EHCP is issued	Mar-24			Apr-24			May-24			Of which final week May	Jun-24		
	Model	Revised est	Actual	Model	Revised est	Actual	Model	Revised est	Actual		Model	Revised est	Actual
Overdue EHCPs issued inc tribunal/mediation	268	178	264	202	356	265	86	154	102	20	36	92	64
On time EHCPs issued inc tribunal/mediation	69	46	61	98	110	103	147	119	96	51	128	97	72
EHCP timeliness % (does not include tribunal/mediation)	20%	19%	18%	33%	24%	29%	63%	47%	52%	74%	78%	62%	61%
Refusal to issue	37	57	57	15	23	39	16	22	32	n/a	18	24	17
<b>Total EHCNAs completed</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>153</b>
Post EP overdue EHCPs remaining (including tribunal/mediation)			414			180			162				95

This data is based on actual child data with revised modelling for July and August underway.

We reached 74% timeliness in the last week of May in line with the target and 53% overall for May, placing May performance above the 2023 national level of 50%

We have achieved 61% timeliness for June and aim to continue to build on this rising to 70% by the end of the Autumn term. 61% is less than originally modelled as we finalised a number of June EHCPs early in May and therefore there were fewer on time EHCPs that could be issued in June compared with the numbers of final backlog EHCPs that were completed.



Monitoring of the progress of EHCNAs takes place on a daily basis with resources being refocused, where needed, to support the completion of this work.

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# SNAPSHOT DASHBOARD – SOCIAL WORKERS - May 2024

All data shown here includes Social Worker, Senior Social Workers and Advanced Social Workers only



**Permanent: 252 FTE (55.50%) / 267 Roles (54.94%)**

  4.22% (FTE) / 5.01% (roles) 12 months ago  
( fewer roles and fewer FTE staffed with permanent workers compared to 12 months ago)

**Vacant: 85.9 FTE (18.52%) / 88 Roles (18.18%)**

  5.36% (FTE) / 4.85% (roles) 12 months ago  
( more roles and more FTE are fully vacant (no locum cover) compared to 12 months ago)

**Locums: 116.2 FTE (44.50%) / 114 Roles (26.54%)**

  0.16% (FTE) / 12.6% (roles) 12 months ago  
( more roles and more FTE staffed with locum workers compared to 12 months ago)

(In FTE, 70 locums are Social Workers, 38 are Senior and 11 are Advanced)

## Social Worker Workforce Trends (last 4 quarters & latest data)

	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Latest Data May-24
Permanent (%)	63.79%	59.40%	58.32%	57.11%	54.94%
Vacancy (%)	14.02%	16.90%	16.79%	18.26%	18.52%
Locum (%)	22.20%	23.70%	24.89%	23.51%	26.54%
<b>Total (FTE)</b>	<b>435.2</b>	<b>450.3</b>	<b>456.8</b>	<b>441.5</b>	<b>454.1</b>

## Target Social Worker Workforce Ratio

Permanent: 80-85%  
Vacancy: 5%  
Locum: 10-15%

**Turnover: 14.39 % (voluntary)**



By 33 % over last 12 months

(Turnover has steadily reduced since a high of 30.70% in July 2022)

**New Starters: 4**



(38 in last 12 months)

**Leavers (Voluntary): 1**



43 (in last 12 months)

Unable to update sickness data beyond May 2023 following the implementation of Unit4 (MySurrey).

## Total social worker staffing costs



Monthly spend – Permanent staff: £1.13m



Monthly spend – Agency staff: £0.68m



**Total monthly spend: £1.82M**



**By £0.28m in 23/24**

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## Surrey foster carer turnover

Information is supplied annually to Ofsted in the form of a prescribed data-set.

Collection year	Total Number of households at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Number of places at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Number of Family and Friends households
2018	388	658	
2019	377	643	
2020	393	656	109
2021	398	662	113
2022	397	660	122
2023	358	599	107
2024	331	584	102

(Source: Ofsted Fostering Data Set Return)

Fostering Households approved by fostering panel in year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-24	2024-25 (1 <sup>st</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> July)
General foster carer	31	21	18	21	5
Friends and family carer	50	41	37	37	12
Fostering to adopt carer	2	4	-	1	
Short breaks – children who are also looked after carer	1	2	-		
Short breaks – children who are not otherwise looked after carer	3	0	-		
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

Collection year	Total Number of households resigned or deregistered by fostering panel	Number of mainstream fostering households	Number of connected person fostering households
2020-2021	42	11	31
2021-2022	38	24	14
2022-2023	47	31	16
2023-2024	63	40	23
2024-2025	12	7	5

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

Deregistration reason – Household number	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Resigned due to retirement	11	8	
Resigned due to change of circumstances	14	23	7
Resigned due to difficulty fulfilling the fostering role	3		1
Resigned as child no longer looked after (Special Guardianship obtained / Adoption Order )	8	7	1
Resigned due to impact of fostering on emotional well-being	1		

Resigned as child no longer in their care	5	4	
Resigned following standards of care investigation	1		
Deregistered by the service as no longer suitable to foster	4		
Child returned home (planned move)		10	1
Placement Breakdown		4	
Staying put/Supported Lodgings		8	2
Becoming Shared lives carers for previously fostered child		3	

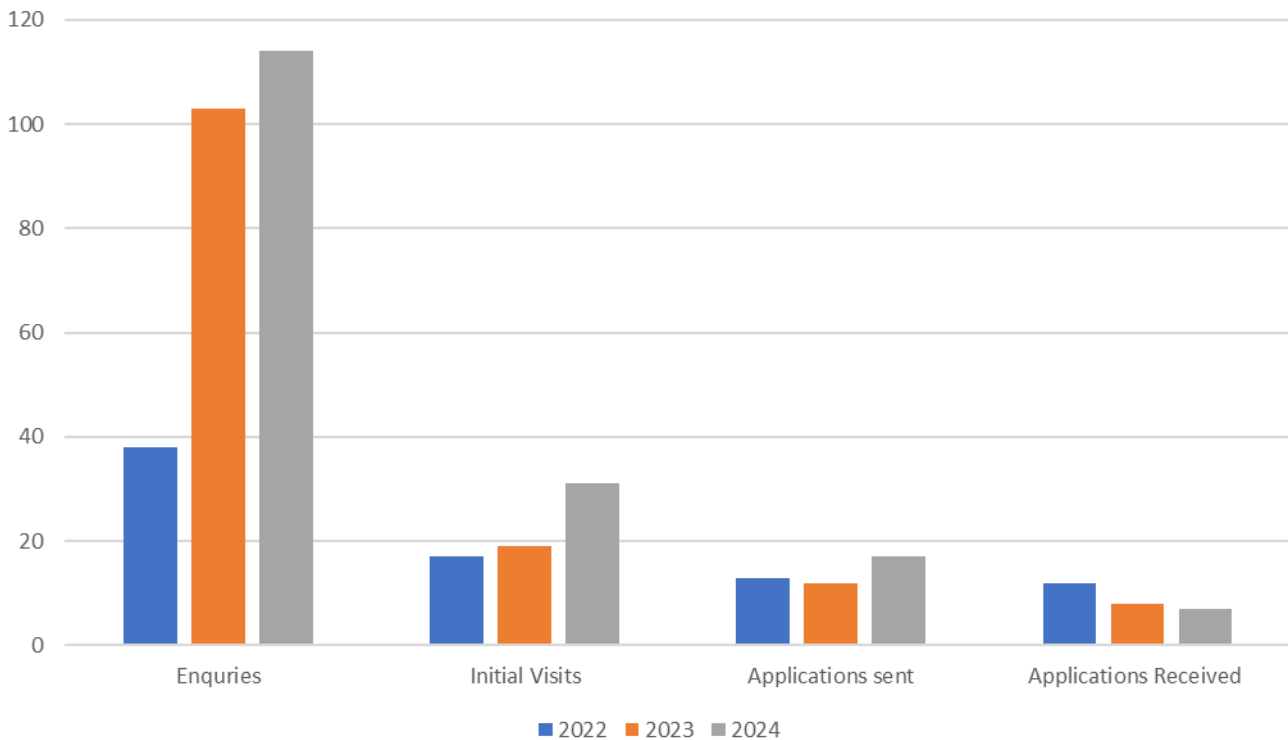
(Source: Fostering Service exit interviews and Fostering Panel Case Data)

Special Guardianship Orders made	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Q1 (April to June)
Number of children who have had an order made in financial year.	59	31	9

Recruitment activity

Recruitment activity for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter for this year and 2 previous (April to June). When comparing to 22/23 and 23/24 all metrics are up over the past year except receiving applications, which is down slightly. This suggests messaging is working but subsequent enquirers want to support younger children or cannot commit to fostering full time due to financial pressures/cost of living/space. This aligns with the findings of work we commissioned with Insight team who undertook a YouGov survey as to the barriers for fostering in Surrey households.

Year on Year recruitment figure Q1



## External Assessments

Area	Assessor	Situation in 2021	Situation in 2024
Children's services	Ofsted	Inadequate ( <a href="#">May 2018</a> )	Requires improvement ( <a href="#">Mar 2022</a> )
Youth offending team	HM Inspectorate of Probation	Inadequate ( <a href="#">Aug 2019</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Mar 2022</a> )
In-house children's homes (Table 1)	Ofsted	70% Good or Outstanding	<b>77.8% of those inspected Good or Outstanding</b>
Schools and AP (Tables 2 & 3)	Ofsted	Maintained: 96.1% Good or Outstanding Academies: 90.1% Good or Outstanding	Maintained: <b>98.2% Good or Outstanding</b> Academies: <b>90.1% Good or Outstanding</b>
SEND (local area inspection)	Ofsted & CQC	Progress in 4 of 5 areas of weakness identified in <a href="#">2016 (May 2019)</a>	<b>Inconsistent experiences and outcomes</b> ( <a href="#">November 2023</a> )
Adult learning	Ofsted	Good ( <a href="#">Jun 2016</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Jun 2022</a> )

Table 1: **SCC children's homes** as of July 2024

SCC children's home	Previous inspection	Most recent inspection
SC405933	Good ( <a href="#">Apr 2022</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">May 2023</a> )
1230411	Good ( <a href="#">Jul 2021</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Jun 2023</a> )
SC370703	Good ( <a href="#">Mar 2023</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Feb 2024</a> )
SC040633	Good ( <a href="#">Mar 2023</a> )	Outstanding ( <a href="#">Jan 2024</a> )
SC040638	Inadequate ( <a href="#">Sept 2022</a> )	Monitoring visit <a href="#">Oct 2022</a>
SC040631	Requires Improvement <a href="#">Jun 2023</a>	Assurance inspection <a href="#">Jan 2024</a>
SC040642	Good ( <a href="#">Feb 2023</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Sep 2023</a> )
SC068827	Inadequate ( <a href="#">Dec 2022</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">Dec 2023</a> )
SC045408	Good ( <a href="#">Nov 2022</a> )	Good ( <a href="#">May 2023</a> )
2756164	N/A	Not yet inspected ( <a href="#">new registration Jan 2024</a> )
2784702	N/A	Not yet inspected ( <a href="#">new registration Apr 2024</a> )
2784664	N/A	Not yet inspected ( <a href="#">new registration Apr 2024</a> )

**Non-SCC children's homes housing Surrey children** as of July 2024

Ofsted grade	Percentage of homes in England	Number of Surrey children affected
Outstanding or Good	89.1%	104
Requires improvement	8.7%	13
Inadequate	1.1%	1
Not yet inspected	1.1%	1

NB In addition two children are housed in homes in Wales/Scotland, inspected by the Care Inspectorate.

## Schools and Alternative Provision

Who runs what in the sector as of end of May 2024:

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU
Maintained	141 (47%)	8 (14%)	11 (44%)	5 (63%)
Academies	158	50	14	3
Total	299	58	25	8

Table 2: Ratings for maintained schools

**Ofsted Monthly Management Information: Data Tables**  
 1 = Outstanding | 2 = Good | 3 = Requires Improvement | 4 = Inadequate.

Table Name: 31 May 2024 | Data taken at end of: May 2024

Show Data As:  No. of Schools  No. of Students | School type at time: (All) | Current School Type: (Multiple values)

### Surrey

	Overall effectiveness <sup>1</sup>					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O   R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Nursery	2	2				4	4	4	100.0%	
Primary	15	123	2		1	141	140	138	98.6%	1.4%
PRU	2	2		1		5	5	4	80.0%	20.0%
Secondary	3	5				8	8	8	100.0%	
Special	7	4				11	11	11	100.0%	
Grand Total	29	136	3		1	169	168	165	98.2%	1.8%

### All Local Authorities

	Overall effectiveness <sup>1</sup>					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O   R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Nursery	230	143	7		1	381	381	373	97.9%	2.1%
Primary	1,049	7,709	623	39	8	9,428	9,420	8,758	93.0%	7.0%
PRU	29	123	9		6	167	167	152	91.0%	9.0%
Secondary	73	473	61		4	611	611	546	89.4%	10.6%
Special	210	313	20		10	553	553	523	94.6%	5.4%
Grand Total	1,591	8,761	720	60	8	11,140	11,132	10,352	93.0%	7.0%

Table 3: Ratings for academies including free schools

**Ofsted Monthly Management Information: Data Tables**  
 1 = Outstanding | 2 = Good | 3 = Requires Improvement | 4 = Inadequate.

Table Name: 31 May 2024 | Data taken at end of: May 2024

Show Data As:  No. of Schools  No. of Students | School type at time: (All) | Current School Type: (Multiple values)

### Surrey

	Overall effectiveness <sup>1</sup>					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O   R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Primary	24	119	10		5	158	158	143	90.5%	9.5%
PRU	3					3	3	3	100.0%	
Secondary	11	35	3		1	50	49	46	93.9%	6.1%
Special	4	5	2		2	14	13	9	69.2%	30.8%
Grand Total	42	159	15		2	225	223	201	90.1%	9.9%

### All Local Authorities

	Overall effectiveness <sup>1</sup>					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O   R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Primary	902	5,624	599	157	49	7,331	7,282	6,526	89.6%	10.4%
PRU	28	103	18		4	165	161	131	81.4%	18.6%
Secondary	427	1,807	361	113	32	2,740	2,708	2,234	82.5%	17.5%
Special	143	245	34		43	497	454	388	85.5%	14.5%
Grand Total	1,500	7,779	1,012	314	128	10,733	10,605	9,279	87.5%	12.5%

NB Academies may not have been inspected since converting.