

CABINET – 28 January 2025

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions:**Question (1): Ellen Nicholson**

What is the Council policy with regards to Care Homes and the Council policy to vacate care homes and to dispose of the asset?

Reply:

The Residential and Nursing Care Delivery Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2024 which built on previous cabinet decisions on care home provision in March 2015, February 2022 and June 2023. The primary goal is to develop “Homes for the Future” to address demand by working with the broader Surrey care home market and utilising Surrey's own care home assets to enable affordable capacity. Over the next year, we will prepare a Strategic Business Case, to be presented for Cabinet approval by the end of 2025, outlining recommendations for the future of Surrey's care home assets.

An asset disposal will only be pursued when a formal surplus declaration has been agreed and the decision has been made to release the asset from any operational service use.

Once any asset is vacated or released from current use, and/or has been subject to a decision to close, it is re-assessed for potential redevelopment for a service use, or fully released for disposal. If fully released the asset is exposed to the open market for sale and final terms approved by Cabinet in accordance with Standing Orders to secure Section 123 best value from its disposal.

Sinead Mooney
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
27 January 2025

Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Property,
Waste and Infrastructure
27 January 2025

Question (2): Leigh and David Chambers

Given the limited time available for discussion of each case at the Additional Needs and Disabilities Governance Board meetings, what **documented records** are kept to show **due evidenced** consideration has been given to all the submitted reports and is this information available on request to families ahead of them starting legal proceedings?

Reply:

Governance Boards are multi-disciplinary panels attended by SEN staff, educational psychologists, school, health and social care representatives and they make recommendations to the nominated decision-making officer. These panels consider

requests to assess a child, requests to issue an EHCP and requests to change an EHCP following annual reviews.

The multi-agency discussion supporting decision-making is not documented, however the discussion itself requires each professional attending to give their views in respect of the children and young people presented, sharing their views and recommendations of the provision required to meet the needs of the child or young person. In order to give these views, the professionals in attendance are required to read and assimilate the paperwork in advance of the meeting. This includes a Summary of Assessment document, which pulls together the professional reports, as well as the individual reports themselves. Part of the activity in the multi-agency discussion meeting is to ensure the correct details have been included in this summary document, which requires full engagement with the source material.

Where a decision is made not to carry out a statutory assessment of a child or young person's needs, the decision is shared with a rationale and a link to the provision and support available to all children and young people via our 'local offer'. An offer is also made to discuss the outcome, should the family wish, allowing them a better understanding of the rationale.

Where a decision is made following a statutory assessment not to issue an EHCP, the rationale is provided to support the decision, and in addition further discussion is available in a 'way forward' meeting offered to all families after a decision, which can include reference to the evidence provided in the professionals' reports.

The summary of assessment and all supporting documents are also shared with the parent/carers, which allows families to see how the detail of the reports has been used to assess the needs of the child or young person.

If the decision has been made to issue an Education Health Care Plan, families will receive a copy of the draft plan, which again shows the connection between reports (these are attached as appendices to the plan) and the decision made.

In the case of decisions made following an annual review, the rationale for the decision is shared. If the outcome is 'no change', the Education Health Care Plan remains unchanged, families having access to the annual review evidence that was used.

If there is a change to the plan suggested, families will receive a copy of the draft plan, which again shows the connection between reports (these are attached as appendices to the plan) and the decision made.

In all cases, families are always offered the opportunity to meet with a member of the SEND service to better understand the rationale behind a decision should they wish to discuss the outcomes, allowing them to understand the way in which reports have been used to support decision making.

Clare Curan
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning
27 January 2025