SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE ADULTS

working for a better Surrey

Key stats and facts

- 27% of Surrey residents are older people who are unable to manage a self-care activity alone, have a learning or physical disability, mental health need or combination of these.
- Almost 14% of Surrey residents declare themselves to have a long-term health problem or disability. Nearly 6% of them said they are limited a lot in their day-to-day activities.
- Almost 10% of Surrey residents provide unpaid care for a family member, friend, neighbour or other person, with nearly 2% providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week.
- It is estimated that currently nearly 1 in 4 adults in Surrey has at least one mental health disorder.

Donal Hegarty, Senior Manager, Commissioning (Adult Social Care) shares his experience

What else have we been doing?

Adopting different ways of tackling stigma against dementia

Challenge: How do we raise awareness of dementia in a different way? How do we involve local people?

Solution: We recruit Surrey residents, businesses and organisations to be Dementia Friendly Surrey Champions. Each Champion makes a pledge to raise awareness and help people with dementia in the local community.

Impact: So far, 30 individuals and 55 organisations have signed up as Champions. Our Champion organisations include a home care agency, a community health provider, a GP practice, a dentist, an optician, carers groups, a leisure centre, a health club, a parish church, a community transport provider, a borough council and our own Trading Standards. Individuals that have signed up to become Champions include the Church and Community Adviser for the Diocese of Guildford, an acute hospital consultant physician, carers of people with dementia, borough councillors, Surrey County Council's Assistant Director for Personal Care and Support and even local MP, Jeremy Hunt. Some Champions are holding information sessions, some are helping to organise community meetings. Some are just making more time for family and friends with dementia, but all of our Champions are playing a part in raising awareness of dementia and making Surrey more dementia friendly.

Key thing I learnt: Never underestimate the desire for residents to get involved in projects that are meaningful and help others. Our Champions recognise the impact of dementia and are only too happy to get involved.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact us on **dementia.friendly@surreycc.gov.uk** or **www.dementiafriendlysurrey.org.uk**

Almost 30% of claimants for Disability Living Allowance in Surrey are aged 60 or over.

SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE ADULTS

working for a better Surrey

Norah Lewis, Assistant Senior Manager, Commissioning (Adult Social Care) shares her experience

Providing advocacy and support to help Surrey residents adapt to welfare reforms

Challenge: How do we help people who are applying for and being assessed to continue to receive Welfare Benefits as a result of the Welfare Reform Act 2012?

Solution: We asked people in Surrey what they would find helpful; they said they wanted: one point of referral, to be able to meet with advisors in their own home, for the advisor to be well trained and understand the importance of confidentiality. A tender for the service took place last year and was awarded to a consortium of voluntary organisations who work in partnership to deliver the service. They have a nominated lead provider and the service is called "Get Wis£".

Impact: Since April 2013, 814 people have been supported and only two of these have not received Welfare Benefits. We have secured an income of just over £560,000 for this year from the Department of Work and Pensions through successful benefits applications that have benefited mostly people of working age. Importantly, this is a free service for people who do not have to meet any needs eligibility. Help is available from the start to the finish of the process including supporting people at tribunals.

An example that clearly illustrates the impact of the service is the case of Ms P. She was referred to "Get Wis£" as her unemployment benefits were due to end and she was to attend a tribunal without support. Her family did not recognise her mental health issues and had undermined her treatment leading to further substance misuse. The Benefits Advisor supported her (and won the appeal) at tribunal and helped her to seek medical support.

Key thing I learnt: It is important to take account of the applicant's personal circumstances beyond the monetary side. They know how to access services in the community and are able to support them beyond their immediate need for welfare benefits. So there is added value in providing a service that looks at the broader picture.

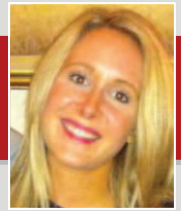
If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact me at **norah.lewis@surreycc.gov.uk**

PROTECTING OUR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

working for a better Surrey

Key stats and facts

- The council acts as a corporate parent to about 800 children at any one time. They are described as "Looked After". As their corporate parent, the council aims to be as ambitious for them as any other parent would be for their child.
- By the end of 2012/13, there were 368 foster carers in Surrey.
- In 2012-13, 630 children were placed in foster care – just over 75% of all "Looked After" children. This was approximately a 6% increase on the previous year.
- The number of children and young people that were able to leave care in 2012/13, whether through adoption or a Special Guardianship Order, was 80 – an all time high. This is expected to nearly double by the end of 2013/14.



Emily Pentland, Assistant Team Manager (South-West Area), Care Leavers' Service (Children, Schools and Families) shares her experience

What else have we been doing?

Supporting our care leavers in their preparations for adulthood

Challenge: To continue to support one of our care leavers, who had previously been involved in anti-social behaviour and the criminal justice system, as he was working towards joining the army as a dog handler.

Solution: We built a strong, trusted relationship with him, stayed in close contact and gave him the support he needed to pass the assessments to join the army. At the same time he had to deal with the ending of his long term relationship and the sudden passing of his birth father. Thomas continued working hard and was rewarded for his efforts at the Surrey 'Celebrating You' event, run by the Care Leavers' Service, where we put him forward to be recognised for his personal and professional successes.

Impact: He is now 22 and training in his dream job as a dog handler and is currently serving in Germany. He recently appeared in the TV documentary 'Animal Heroes' about the dogs and horses that all help to serve our county, and of course, the people that handle them. Thomas was recognised as best in his class and is without a doubt an inspiration for all of our care leavers.

Key thing I learnt: It is important to build and maintain strong relationships with the vulnerable children in our care and continue to support them through their transition to adulthood.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact me at **emily.pentland@surreycc.gov.uk** or visit **http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/fostering-adoption-and-looked-after-children/looked-after-children-and-young-people**

Petaline Stewart is one of the 368 foster carers in Surrey. The council recruited 48 foster carers in 2012/13.

IMPROVING OUR ROADS

working for a better Surrey

Victoria Trust, Major Change Programme Officer, Highways (Environment and Infrastructure) shares her experience

Key stats and facts

- Work is underway on the council's five-year £100m investment programme for Surrey's roads. 20% of the programme has been nominated by residents and Members. This is the equivalent of 100km (62 miles) of residential and rural roads across the county.
- The council has earmarked £5m extra for repairing the 200 roads most in need of fixing from cold weather damage.
- To date in 2013/14, 74km (46 miles) of the county's roads included in the investment programme have been renewed. The council's main highways contractor has also recorded strong performance on road repairs. 98% of the top priority roads where defects had been reported were repaired within 2 hours.

Developing a sustainable approach to road renewal in Surrey and the South East

Challenge: How can highways waste be recycled efficiently and reused for the highways network at a regional level?

Solution: The South East 7 (SE7) Highways Steering Group, including seven local authorities across the South East (Surrey, Hampshire, West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, Medway and Brighton and Hove) have worked in partnership with their respective main highways contractors and have established a collaborative project team. This team is working on behalf of all the SE7 authorities and their contractors, developing a model which can be implemented for the South East region. This aims to standardise practise across the region and enable materials to be recycled in large quantities to the highest quality and reused within the region's roads.

Impact: There will be opportunity through partnership to manage large volumes of material through the recycling process resulting in highly competitive prices. This approach is focused on creating efficient and sustainable practises through collaboration and partnership working across both private and public sectors. Recycling highways waste will not only reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, but also reduces the amount of previously unused materials required for highways renewal. Applying this approach means that money is saved on materials and there are environmental benefits, generating greater efficiencies and more effective partnership working.

Key thing I learnt: Trying to deliver major change across multiple organisations is challenging due to different policies, strategies and ways of working. Early engagement is crucial in maximising chances of success, and this approach will continue throughout the project.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge: Please contact me at **victoria.trust@surreycc.gov.uk**.

What else have we been doing?

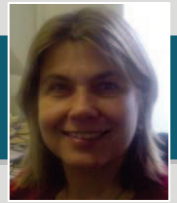
The council has stockpiled over 16,000 tonnes of salt to grit the roads to deal with the impact of any bad weather this winter.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

working for a better Surrey

Key stats and facts

- To date, 31 local companies have won contracts for building and repair work for the council through the Build Surrey website worth almost £4m in total.
- A survey has been launched to over 1,300 Surrey firms to understand the key barriers for businesses in driving economic growth. The Council with its partners will then develop plans to help businesses overcome them.
- The Superfast Broadband Programme hit a key milestone in September by connecting over 15,000 premises in the Programme area to fibre-based broadband infrastructure.
- The council, through its economic development company Surrey Connects, launched the '**Invest in Surrey**' website in October (www.investinsurrey.co.uk) to attract investment in the county from within the UK and abroad.



Katie Brennan, Engagement Manager, Superfast Broadband Programme (Chief Executive's Office), shares her experience

Engaging communities in plans to bring 100% high speed broadband coverage to Surrey

Challenge: To engage face to face with communities across Surrey to talk about the £35 million Superfast Surrey Programme, highlighting the rollout timetable, the challenges of this huge engineering project, and the benefits and opportunities that fibre broadband access will bring.

Solution: We researched the events taking place across the county, cross checked against the fibre rollout plan, and contacted those communities planned for inclusion in the early phases of the programme. I then arranged to attend their meetings discussing the programme in detail, focussing on what would happen in their own communities. The timetable of meetings and communications is ongoing. More meetings are planned which will enable me to meet with as many of the communities as possible across all 11 Surrey districts and boroughs and over 80 parish councils.

Impact: I have attended about 20 events to date that have enabled me to meet and interact with over 500 Surrey residents. This helped residents to have an understanding of the programme coupled with excitement and anticipation from local communities who have struggled with slow internet connections and cannot wait to take advantage of the faster reliable service. Following the briefings, many local communities have offered to assist wherever possible not only in spreading the word amongst neighbours that fibre broadband is coming, but also providing local input for some unexpected engineering challenges, for instance, placing new green cabinets in conservation areas.

Key things I learnt: The value of local relationships when delivering a huge partnership project. Creating awareness brings a real community buzz, and importantly provides local insight, knowledge and support for those unexpected local engineering or technical issues. I was surprised by the growing numbers of people already trying to work from home who said that with access to fast reliable broadband they could do this, either running their own business or as an employee for a larger organisation located many miles away. Thus improving their work life balance, saving time and travel, as well as helping to keep their local communities alive.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge: Please contact me at **katieb@superfastsurrey.org.uk**

What else have we been doing?

Building on the success of schemes such as Walton Bridge, the Council and partners are focussed on other transport infrastructure projects that can boost economic growth such as tackling congestion on the A3 Corridor between Portsmouth and London.

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

working for a better Surrey

Simon Elson, Principal Environmental Enhancement Officer, Planning Development Control Team (Environment & Infrastructure)

What else have we been doing?

Restoring mineral sites to the highest standard to conserve Surrey's natural environment

Challenge: Ensuring mineral sites are restored to the highest standards, reflecting the quality of and enhancing Surrey's environment.

Solution: Surrey is unique as a Mineral Planning Authority in the UK by having an officer purely dedicated to restoration since 1990. This has led to the evolution of the 'Surrey Style' of restoration, which in turn is being recognised as best practice by the Local Government Association and Planning Officers Society, as well as being championed by the Nature after Minerals (NAM) initiative led by the RSPB and Natural England. This in turn has led to the EU funded international project - RESTORE. The RESTORE Project runs until 2015, and seeks to promote and recommend the best practice in mineral restoration. Surrey along with the RSPB are the UK partners in this project.

Impact: I think we have yet to see the full impact. However, the 'Surrey Style' of restoration delivers a range of benefits, beyond the council being seen as a serious player on the international stage. For example, we are working on enhancing sand extraction restoration in Holmesdale (from Redhill to Godstone), where we're aiming to link up different woodland blocks in the area into one large woodland. This will help preserve biodiversity in the area, and residents can use the area to go for walks and continue to enjoy the beauty of Surrey's natural landscape.

Key thing I learnt: Have a vision, share it, get others to buy into it and then deliver it together. In doing so, don't be afraid to dream but be realistic and have patience, determination, and a willingness to listen and fun in making those dreams come true.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact me at **simon.elson@surreycc.gov.uk**

Reigate St Mary's prep and choir school secured funding through Travel SMART's cycling improvement fund to provide a cycle shelter for pupils and their bicycles.

• Key stats and facts

- Surrey is the most wooded county in the whole of England. Woodland accounts for 25% of the land area in the county, and a further 15% is areas of natural conservation.
- Surrey residents are leading the way in recycling. Since 2011, residents have consistently recycled just over half of their household waste.
- Over 75,000 tonnes of uneaten food is thrown away in Surrey every year. The cost of dealing with all this adds up to £6m per year. The Love Food Surrey campaign is promoting this to residents to cut the amount wasted.
- The council is working with district and borough councils to design a campaign aimed at reducing the amount of litter in Surrey.

KEEPING FAMILIES HEALTHY

working for a better Surrey

Key stats and facts

- At the start of the 2013/14 financial year, the council took over responsibility for providing public health services in Surrey. This means the council has an increasingly active role in initiatives such as the reduction of smoking rates, alcohol consumption and under-age pregnancies.
- The council is working with GPs and pharmacies to deliver Health Checks for people aged between 40 and 74. To date 470 residents have taken up the offer through pharmacies.
- The county is performing well in areas such as reducing the number of people being admitted to hospital through alcohol-related conditions, and helping more people complete drug treatment programmes.

Julian Pooley, Team Leader, Heritage Services (Customers and Communities) shares his experience

Making the heritage of mental health accessible and relevant to service users today

Challenge: To make history matter by opening up the archives of Surrey's former asylums to mental health service users today.

Solution: Surrey had more mental health hospitals than most English counties and when they closed in the 1990s, Surrey History Centre rescued their historic records. They provide a fascinating record of three centuries of mental health care in Surrey, used by family and social historians from around the world. We are working with the mental health charity, Mind, to use the archive for reminiscence and oral history projects with former patients. Photographs of daily life at the hospitals – wards, recreation hall, farm, laundry, chapel, dances and carnivals - have helped to revive memories and uncover a past that is rapidly disappearing from sight.

Impact: Handling the archives and sharing their memories of institutional life has had a powerful and positive impact upon the service users. It has helped them to discover the importance and relevance of their personal histories, encouraging a sense of ownership of the records. It has increased their self-confidence and enabled them to participate in further projects with us. This award winning work has led to working with other mental health groups such as with Epsom Mental Health Week.

Key thing I learnt: Always take the experienced mental health worker's advice and work with them. They are the experts. Build your own relationship with them as this establishes trust between you that service users will pick up on. It can be a fine line between oral history and a therapy session but striking the right balance has been extraordinarily successful.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge: Please contact me at **jpooley@surreycc.gov.uk**

What else have we been doing?

Two volunteers in Staines helping promote 'Stoptober'. Their aim was to add to the 588 people in Surrey that have stopped smoking so far in 2013/14, with support from the council and health partners.

HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

working for a better Surrey

Christine Chapman, Assistant Practice Development and Quality Assurance Manager, (Children, Schools and Families), shares her experience

What else have we been doing?

Working with partners to raise awareness of employment and training options for families with complex needs

Challenge: The Surrey Family Support Programme works with families with multiple and complex needs by bringing together the agencies and professionals who work with each family using a single assessment and single action plan. As part of this we wanted to support unemployed adults in these families into work.

Solution: We have agreed with Job Centre Plus that where an adult in the Family Support Programme is claiming an unemployment benefit, a Job Centre Plus Adviser will contribute to the single assessment, advising the family on benefits take up and work with other agencies and professionals to find ways to get unemployed family members into work or a back to work skills programme. In support of these arrangements, Job Centre Plus will second four key members of staff into the local Family Support Teams to work as a direct link between local services and Job Centre Plus offices and to support unemployed families into the Work Programme and/or other back to work schemes.

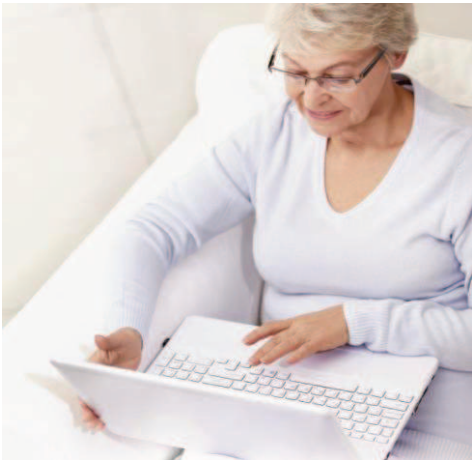
Impact: As a consequence of these new arrangements, Job Centre Plus coordinators now sit on the Surrey Multi Agency Panels and attend regular meetings. The Surrey Family Support Teams have improved their understanding of the range of options for getting back into work. In addition the frontline family coordinators are taking time as part of their assessments to ask the families about their aspirations around employability and training. One service user said “I really want to get a job so I can afford to get a bus pass so my daughter can attend school more regularly. I feel more confident about my options now”.

Key thing I learnt: It is important to challenge perceptions on worklessness within vulnerable families: to listen to, and value the whole family’s aspirations and values on employability and to then ensure that the key public services work together to provide the tools necessary to achieve those aspirations.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact me at **christine.chapman@surreycc.gov.uk**

Key stats and facts

- In 2012/13, the Council supported over 3,000 people with telecare equipment which includes alarms and telecare sensors - an increase of 107% from 2011/12. 67% of telecare users live alone, so having access to this equipment will help them stay independent for longer.
- Of the 1,030 cases dealt with and closed by the Reablement Team since April 2013, 53% (or 546 residents) were given the confidence and skills to carry out day-to-day activities such as washing and dressing themselves, and no longer required the services of Adult Social Care.



Surrey Information Point (www.surreyinformationpoint.org.uk) provides information to help vulnerable residents maintain their independence. There have been 36,000 visits to the site since April 2013.

INVESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS

abc working for a better Surrey

Keith Brown, Schools and Programmes Manager, Property Services (Business Services), shares his experience

Key stats and facts

- In 2016, the number of births in the county is projected to be nearly 14,800. This is almost 6% higher than the number recorded in 2009 (13,903), and provides an indicator of the pattern of rising demand for school places in Surrey.
- The proportion of schools in Surrey rated as either 'good' or 'outstanding' is over 75%.
- The council successfully delivered over 2,800 additional school places in time for the September 2013 academic year – over six times more than the number required in 2008 (435).
- The council plans to deliver 16,000 additional school places by 2018. Over £350m has been allocated to provide these.

Responding to the challenge of meeting increasing demand for school places in Surrey

Challenge: We had a challenge to deliver over 2,800 school places to keep pace with increasing demand in Surrey.

Solution: We worked closely with colleagues in the Schools and Learning Commissioning Team, to identify how to translate anticipated pupil place demand in Surrey schools, and ensure there were enough places to accommodate them. We worked closely with colleagues across the council, schools and their governors to review the most suitable sites for development and these are shortlisted. We visit the sites to consider the specific challenges they present, such as highways and access pressures, archaeology, ecology and buildings of historical interest, before a final school is selected for expansion and detailed plans of the new accommodation are produced.

Impact: The property solution must take account of the requirements and interests of the pupils, parents and staff. It is also crucial that the local community and residents needs are considered, due to their close proximity to the school and the potential disruption caused. We also work closely with our local contractors and suppliers to develop the most cost effective solutions to ensure value for money for the taxpayers of Surrey. One example of where close relationships were formed between the contractor and the school was at Potters Gate Primary School in Farnham. They arranged for the pupils to have bricks engraved with their names as part of the new extension, which meant the pupils felt part of major changes happening at their school. Additional benefits include employment opportunities, apprenticeships and skills training that are created for the hundreds of people that are employed in delivering our schools programme.

Key thing I learnt: Detailed planning and working collaboratively are essential in increasing the chances of delivering success.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge: Please contact me at **keith.brown@surreycc.gov.uk**

What else have we been doing?

Potters Gate Primary School in Farnham was one of the schools to benefit from the council's school places expansion programme this year. Places were created for a further 210 pupils at a cost of nearly £3.2m.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

working for a better Surrey

Chris Bussicott, Commissioning Officer, Services for Young People (Children, Schools and Families) shares his experience

Key stats and facts

- The proportion of young people participating in education, employment and training in the county stands at just under 97%. This compares very well with the national figure of 85%.
- Since the council launched its campaigns to drive up numbers of apprenticeships in the county, the number of apprenticeships has increased by 30%, making Surrey one of the only counties to increase its apprenticeship numbers.
- The number of new apprentices in Surrey increased by almost 11% in the nine months to April 2013 compared with the same period a year earlier.

Raising awareness of options and opportunities for young people

Challenge: Raising the participation age is government policy, which means young people are required to stay on in education or training for longer (until age 18 by 2015) – but not every young person wants to spend more time in school, so how can we let them know what their options are?

Solution: We organised the Surrey Opportunities Fair and invited every college, vocational training provider, and apprenticeship provider to attend. Schools were asked to bring along their Year 11 students so that they could begin to plan their next steps in Year 12 of education/training, and beyond.

Impact: Over 100 exhibits were packed into the exhibition space at the Duchess Stand at Epsom Racecourse, and they were visited by about 1500 young people from schools all over the county – the picture on the right gives an idea of the atmosphere at the event. We had worked with the exhibitors to make their stands interactive so that young people could try their hand at some of the skills that they might need in the workplace, so there was the opportunity to try their hand at everything from cake decorating to handling real live sheep, motor maintenance to putting in hair extensions. Feedback from students and schools was excellent, saying that the event helped them focus on how they might benefit from raising the participation age to gain the vocational training that will help them in their future career plans. The response was so positive that senior managers have already committed to hold the Surrey Opportunities Fair in 2014.

Key thing I learnt: That young people want to learn but some don't realise that there is a huge range of options for them outside the classroom – it's a question of finding the right pathway for an individual to follow towards their future career.

If you want to know more or want help with a similar challenge:
Please contact me at **chris.bussicott@surreycc.gov.uk** or visit our website at: **http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning/14-19-education-and-training/young-people-and-apprenticeships**

What else have we been doing?

Employers, further education providers and young people attended the Surrey Opportunities Fair at Epsom Racecourse.

AWARDS

Councillor Michael Gosling and Surrey GP Joe McGilligan, who co-chair Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Board, won an award as regional **NHS System Leaders of the Year** in November. This reflected how well the council has **worked with its health partners** over the past few years.

Mary Hendrick was a runner-up in the Guardian Public Servant of the Year for her **work with people with learning disabilities** over 25 years. Surrey County Council's partnership manager for disabilities was one of five people nationally in the running for the paper's award.

The council's team behind the £32m Walton Bridge has received a top highways industry award. Highways Magazine's Excellence Awards have given the **Major UK Project Award** to the bridge's joint team from the council and contractor Costain. Judges specifically commended them for involving local schools, residents and businesses throughout, limiting road closures to fewer than 10 days and helping to transform the local riverfront.

The council won a national award for the work its libraries are doing to support vulnerable people. The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) recognised the library service for an initiative to help people affected by domestic abuse. The **free scheme** gives access to computers in a safe place so abusers cannot monitor or track them. Information about local and national services is also available and workshops are held to build the confidence of people who have experienced abuse.

Redhill library won a national award attached to the Desmond Elliott prize, an award for new fiction, for promoting and displaying books in the **most innovative way** possible.

The council's employability team, responsible for helping people with disabilities find and retain work, won the team of the year award from trade association BASE. It landed the award for demonstrating an innovative approach, collaborating with others and achieving outstanding results. Almost 430 people secured work through Employability in the last financial year.

Abid Dar, the council's Equality, Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager for Employment, won the Equality and Inclusion Champion of the Year Award from the Employers' Network for Equality and Inclusion Annual Awards.

RECOGNITION

Russell Minns, a former young carer and an apprentice with Surrey Young Carers and Adult Social Care co-chaired the launch event of a **national guide for professionals on personalisation** in September. He also interviewed Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families, for the event.

Following the award of £750,000 of funding to drive forward the shared service arrangements between Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council, Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis commented that the bid was "**innovative**" and had the potential to "significantly **reduce costs** and **improve outcomes** for residents".

The council's new five-year approach to improving the county's roads has been used as an **example of excellent work** by former Cabinet Office Minister, Chloe Smith. Speaking at the annual Government Construction Summit, she singled out Surrey's roads as an example of how **"to be more efficient"** by working more closely with contractors and suppliers. The scheme was also praised by the Department for Transport for the long-term planning approach to ensure more permanent instead of temporary fixes for potholes.

Social networking pioneer **Penny Power** lent her support to the council's drive to encourage more businesses to hire young people. She joined Leader David Hodge at the third of a series of events being staged as part of the council's drive to boost the job prospects of 500 teenagers by next April. The entrepreneur founded the UK's first social network for business in 1998, which now boasts more than 600,000 members.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond has thrown his weight behind **Surrey County Council's apprenticeship drive**. He praised the authority for "selling the virtues of apprenticeships". The Runnymede and Weybridge MP's video message was delivered at the last of a series of events organised by the authority to encourage more businesses to hire young people ahead of the **Surrey Opportunities Fair** at Epsom Racecourse on Tuesday 8 October.

The council was invited to present its work **supporting seven day services in Epsom** at an event to launch Sir Bruce Keogh's Seven Day Services review. The audience included of members of the public, health and social care professionals and representatives from Clinical Commissioning Groups. The wider project to introduce seven day adult social care services in Surrey's five acute hospitals was also a finalist in the **Health Service Journal 2013 awards**.

The council was praised in its **planning peer review**, facilitated by the Local Government Association, for recognising of the role of planning in the achievement of corporate objectives, such as the expansion of school places, and for its commitment to enabling and facilitating district and borough councils in their role on place-making for Surrey.