

Final Report of the Welfare Reform Task Group

Witnesses the Task Group have met with:

Part 1 – Partners

- Helen Drake – Development Manager for Citizens Advice Surrey and Tara Hastings - Camberley Citizens Advice Bureau Manager.
- Maria Zealey – CEO of Surrey Welfare Rights Unit.
- Department for Work and Pensions: Kim Goodall - Regional Office Contact for Surrey & Sussex and Julia Curties - Grant Funding Manager.
- District and Borough Council housing managers: Kim Rippet – Head of Housing for Guildford BC (with own housing stocking) and Deborah Ashman – Head of Housing for Spelthorne BC (without own housing stock).
- Clive Wood - CEO of Surrey Disabled Peoples Partnership (SDPP) (the lead provider of GetwiSE - commissioned by Surrey’s County Council’s Adult Social Care) and Vicki Atherton - SDPP’s Deputy Chief Executive and Manager of the GetwiSE welfare benefits advice service.
- District and Borough Council benefits managers: Simon Rosser – Revenues and Benefits Manager for Reigate and Banstead BC and Grant Langford – Benefits Manager for Elmbridge BC.

Part 2 – Surrey County Council

- Adult Social Care: Toni Carney - Benefits and Charging Consultancy Manager and Norah Lewis – Assistant Senior Manager, ASC Commissioning.
- Children, Schools and Families: Ginni Smedley – Strategy and Policy Development Manager.
- Finance: Daphne Fraser - Senior Principal Accountant, Funding.
- Surrey Libraries: Rose Wilson – Library Operations Manager and Janet Thomas – Libraries Programme Manager.

Part 3 – Partners and Surrey County Council

- GetWIS£ and Claimants: Clive Wood - CEO of Surrey Disabled Peoples Partnership (SDPP) (the lead provider of getWIS£), Femi Sorinwa (Senior Welfare Benefit Advisor, Surrey Disabled People’s Partnership), family member of claimant who has been successfully supported through the Employment Support Allowance appeals process by getWIS£, and claimant who was unsuccessful at ESA appeal.
- Department for Work and Pensions: Kim Goodall - Regional Office Contact for Surrey & Sussex, Mandy Hurst (Epsom JCP manager and ESA Lead), and Vasantha Mohan (Disability Employment Advisor at Epsom JCP). This meeting took place at Epsom Job Centre Plus.
- Public Health: Helen Atkinson (Director of Public Health) and Lisa Andrews (Senior Public Health Lead).
- Shared Services (who are responsible for the Local Assistance Scheme): Simon Pollock – Head of Shared Services and Stewart Taylor - Customer Interaction Lead.

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