

## Surrey Choices Ltd. Company Update

Status

Update date

### Objectives:

1. to establish a Local Authority Trading Company for day services and community support
2. to transfer all staff, liabilities and assets in scope to the business safely and effectively so as to preserve service continuity
3. to deliver the business plan objectives and targets as agreed by the Council's Shareholder Board

Overall programme:



TBC

## Progress update since last report on 16th January 2014 (and verbal update 13th Feb)

### Background:

- Cabinet agreed the creation of an LATC on 17th December 2013
- Delegated authority to the Council Shareholder Board to form the LATC from April 2014
- The award of a 3-year contract from the Council to the LATC to deliver services on its behalf (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)
- Approval of a loan facility from the Council to the LATC to fund its start-up and running costs
- The proposed consultation and engagement process, to commence with staff and stakeholders in January 2014

### Services in scope:

- **Day Services**, which provide approximately 790 people with learning and physical disabilities with a range of opportunities for leisure, activities, training, volunteering and work in a variety of locations
- The **AboutUs Team**, who support people using day services with accessible learning programmes and communications projects
- **EmployAbility**, which supports approximately 650 adults and young people with disabilities who are seeking or engaged in work, volunteering or training
- **Shared Lives Service**, which matches Shared Lives carers with people with disabilities and older people, offering short or long term care in a family home environment
- The **Personalisation Team**, which works with adults with learning disabilities to facilitate Supported Self Assessments, uptake of personal budgets and support planning using community support networks

### Key achievements:

- Shareholder Board approval of articles of association, proposed name, loan arrangements and first appointments all agreed
- Creation of company and incorporation of the business: Surrey Choices was created on 10th March
- Appointment of Managing Director, Simon Laker, and first Non-Executive Director, Nick Wilson
- County Council has appointed an account holder from Adult Social Care commissioning team, supported by procurement, to propose, agree and award initial contract
- Open days held across all current services, supported by days for each staff group: feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic
- Bi-weekly newsletter in circulation, supported by YouTube version online
- Negotiations progressing on buy-back of Council services, Council has appointed a Programme Manager to facilitate LATC transition: main focus will be on payroll, property leases, and asset transfers
- Shareholder Board has taken decision to retain Local Government and Teachers Pension Schemes for existing staff and has requested Surrey Choices propose alternative comparable arrangements for new staff
- Value for money case and supporting information submitted to Secretary of State for Education for Surrey Choices to be awarded admitted body status for Teachers Pension Scheme

### Next steps

Work is underway to co-design the branding of the business with staff, people who use services, and families

The programme of Open House days at each service and other locations will continue monthly up to "go live" and potentially beyond

Formal consultation with staff regarding TUPE transfer will commence upon receipt of admitted body status to Teachers Pension Scheme

Planned business development areas:

- establish financial management arrangements, including LATC accounts mechanism and financial system
- contract with Adult Social Care to deliver services, including KPI's and service specification
- commercial and value management training for managers, services set up as business units in their own right
- Surrey Choices proposed management structure, policies and procedures, branding and business plan to be completed

See high level programme plan overleaf:

Surrey Choices programme plan

High level view of plan

