

County Council Meeting – 14 October 2014

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 22 July and 23 September 2014.

In accordance with the Constitution, Members can ask questions of the appropriate Cabinet Member, seek clarification or make a statement on any of these issues without giving notice.

The minutes containing the individual decisions for 22 July and 23 September meetings are included within the agenda at item 15. Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 13 October 2014).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

1. STATEMENTS/UPDATES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

None.

2. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

22 July 2014

A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN REPORT WITH A FINDING OF MALADMINISTRATION

1. The Local Government Ombudsman investigated a complaint made by Mrs D on behalf of herself and her son, C, that the services provided by both Surrey County Council and the NHS Trust between January 2007 and February 2011 were inadequate, uncoordinated and failed to meet their needs.
2. The Ombudsman found that there had been maladministration, on the part of both Surrey County Council and the NHS Trust, causing injustice.
3. In relation to Surrey County Council the Ombudsman found that:

Education failed:

 - to provide an appropriate amount of home tuition to help C prepare for GCSE examinations
 - to consider continued provision of home tuition after July 2008.

Children's Services failed:

- to undertake a risk assessment with appropriate urgency
 - to allocate a social worker for a significant period
 - to complete the core assessment in a reasonable time
 - to arrange the social activities for C recommended in the core assessment
 - to refer C to the Transitions Team in accordance in accordance with statutory guidance
 - to advise Mrs D of the availability of a carer's assessment and;
 - to complete the carer's assessment within a reasonable time
4. The Ombudsman decided that a compensation payment of £5000 would be appropriate to remedy the injustice caused to Mrs D and C, and the officers of Schools and Learning and Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder have agreed to this.
4. The Ombudsman made other findings of maladministration in relation to the actions of the NHS Trust. Surrey's officers regret that these failings occurred and have agreed to send a joint apology with the NHS Trust to the complainant to acknowledge failings. The Council has also agreed to work with C and to develop action plans to address the failings identified.
- 5. The Cabinet agreed:**
1. That the Ombudsman's report be noted.
 2. That the Cabinet is satisfied that steps have been taken to address the findings of the Ombudsman's report.
 3. That the requirement to produce a response to both the Monitoring Officer's report and the Ombudsman's report, and to ensure that this is sent to all Members and to the Ombudsman, be delegated to the Assistant Directors for Children's and Safeguarding Services and Schools and Learning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

23 September 2014

B DEVELOPING THE FIRST UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN SURREY

1. Surrey County Council, with key partners, are forming a University Technical College (UTC) Academy Trust to submit a bid for a University Technical College (UTC) in Guildford. The key partners, who will be the Founding Members of the Academy Trust, are Royal Holloway - University of London, Guildford College, Guildford Education Partnership, CGI Group and Surrey County Council. The UTC will focus on key skill

shortage areas of computing and engineering, which have been selected with employers and the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership.

2. University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are government funded academies that offer 14-18 year olds an education that is geared to meet the needs of employers, with extensive experience of the work place and projects. They teach students technical and scientific subjects in a new way, educating the inventors, engineers, scientists and technicians of tomorrow.
3. By integrating technical, practical and academic learning, UTCs create an environment where students can thrive and develop the abilities that employers need.
4. UTCs are academies and are smaller than traditional secondary schools. They are not academically selective and charge no fees. UTCs typically have 600 to 800 students, are sub regional and their catchment area may extend across a number of local authorities.
5. The UTC in Guildford will be a high performing specialist academy for 14-18 year olds, producing excellent results with 100% progression to higher education, training or employment. The UTC will offer a different learning environment to schools and colleges, with an emphasis on computing and engineering. These are fields which employers and higher education have identified as growth areas, with shortages of well-qualified and motivated young people. Students will benefit from both academic and technical pathways with clear links between every aspect of their education and the world of work. They will be engaged in their education, working on real world projects and mentored by sponsoring employers. With a business-like environment, students will be learning key employability skills and will have clear progression pathways after Year 12 to higher education, higher apprenticeships and employment. The vision is driven by a shared ambition to motivate and enable all young people to fulfil their potential, become enterprising citizens and make a positive contribution.
6. The development of the UTC will be funded through a bid for capital funding, up to £10 million, from Central Government. It will bring in additional resources to support the development of education opportunities for the future in Surrey, addressing needs arising from the growing population and provide a distinctive new offer for young people. Additional capital funding is also being sought from Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership. Following a successful bid and launch of the UTC, funding would be provided annually in the same way as other secondary schools in Surrey are funded.
7. **The Cabinet agreed:**
 1. That the forming of the Academy Trust Company be approved.

2. That the submission of a bid by the Academy Trust Company for a University Technical College (UTC) in Guildford by the founding members of the trust be approved.
3. That Surrey County Council be approved as one of the founding members of the UTC with Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, acting on the Council's behalf.

C NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY / CULLUM AUTISM CENTRES IN SURREY SCHOOLS

1. The National Autistic Society (NAS) proposes to work in partnership with Surrey County Council and four nominated secondary schools to develop four Centres of Education Excellence for young people with autism. Funding up to £4m will be provided by the NAS specifically for the delivery of the facilities.
2. The centres will be delivered in 2 phases: - phase 1, Salesian School, Chertsey and Rodborough School, Godalming have each agreed to host an autism-specific resourced provision for 20 students aged 11-16 with a proposed opening date of Easter 2015 for the Salesian Centre and September 2015 for the Rodborough Centre. Phase 2 centres are planned to be located at Howard of Effingham School and Hinchley Wood School the timescales for which are to be finalised with NAS.
3. The Learning Difficulties Review (2012) identified an ongoing shortage of Surrey maintained provision for young people with high functioning autism (HFA) and related conditions. There is currently no autism-specific resource centre at secondary level.
4. This proposal will increase the capacity of SEN provision for high-functioning autism in Surrey by 40 places in the first phase and by 80 places on completion of the second phase. It will develop improved integration with mainstream schooling. The four schools where centres are proposed indicated their willingness to work with the project and on the basis of their geographical spread offer equality of provision across the county.
5. Surrey currently places approximately 250 students with autism in non-maintained independent (NMI) schools. Additional high quality maintained provision within Surrey is expected to reduce these costs.
6. The NAS is a nationally respected provider of autism education. A partnership offer will enhance the credibility and quality of Surrey autism provision. Parental confidence will be increased, reducing parental preference for NMI.
7. A resource centre at a mainstream school allows students with high functioning autism to have access not only to autism-specific teaching strategies including an emphasis on social communication, but also to

high quality specialist subject teaching across the full range of the curriculum at a GCSE level of delivery. Students would generally be expected to spend at least 60% of the school day included in mainstream lessons.

8. The NAS has financial support from the Cullum Family Trust to implement four NAS Cullum Autism centres in Surrey. There is no set amount for each individual centre and any programme cost overruns will be borne by the NAS. The NAS offer is for a total capital input up to £4m, subject to a development contribution of £50,000 per centre from Surrey County Council.
9. **The Cabinet agreed:**
 1. That entering into a development and commissioning agreement and a service level agreement with the National Autistic Society to set up four resource centres at secondary schools for young people with autism and to provide £50,000 funding for a development contribution for each centre be approved.
 2. That the statutory notice be determined for the inclusion of an SEN unit at Salesian School, for which the representation period ended on 12 September 2014.
 3. That the capacity of the centre at Salesian School be increased, providing funding of £321,902 to include updated and fit for purpose facilities for its existing SEN pupils.

D QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

1. The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Article 6.05(f) of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

There have been no such decisions during the last quarter.

**Mr David Hodge
Leader of the Council
3 October 2014**

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