

## **Children & Education Select Committee**

### **Items under consideration: Schools and Safeguarding Update**

**Date Considered: 27 November 2014**

- 1 The Children & Education Select Committee received verbal updates from the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning, and representatives from the Secondary Phase Council and Special School Phase Council.
- 2 The Committee heard from witnesses about the role of schools in identifying and sharing safeguarding concerns, and how the partners on the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) have worked to raise awareness in schools on key safeguarding issues, such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- 3 The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning stressed that she considered supporting schools on the issue of safeguarding children and young people to be a priority. Accordingly, she informed the Committee of her wish to engage further with the SSCB, and to work with her Cabinet colleagues to identify what more could be done to support schools on the matter of safeguarding. She also highlighted that there was a need to engage with all Surrey schools on these matters.
- 4 The Committee noted that the Section 11 audits, being undertaken in all maintained schools in the autumn term, would provide evidence about the safeguarding policies and procedures schools have in place. Phase council witnesses commented that so far the audits had proved useful in ensuring schools were compliant with safeguarding guidance.
- 5 The Committee recommends:
  - That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Families re-develop the Council's policy on safeguarding in all Surrey schools. It is suggested the Section 11 audits for schools are used to identify key themes in this regard.

**Dr Zully Grant-Duff**  
**Chairman of the Children & Education Select Committee**

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