



Linda Kemeny
County Councillor
-Woking South West Division-
Room 121
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston-Upon-Thames
KT1 2DN

Phone: 0208 541 7595
Email: Linda.Kemeny@surreycc.gov.uk

Mr Nick Harrison
Chairman
Audit & Governance Select Committee
c/o Room 122
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DN

28 January 2015.

Dear Nick

SEN Strategy

I refer to your letter dated 24th November 2014 and to my earlier letter to you on this subject dated 23 September 2014.

At that time, I advised the Committee of the formation of the SEND Governance Board and its plans for drafting a new SEND strategy for the local authority. While this work commenced in October, it has not been possible to complete a draft at this time owing to a number of pressures on the leadership team within Children, Schools and Families and the fact that the Governance Board has needed wider representation to ensure that all parties involved have an opportunity to input into this important work. The Governance Board met yesterday and is now committed as far as possible to producing a draft strategy by 1 May 2015. I am aware that the Select Committee will meet in April, and I will be happy to provide a further update for that meeting. The Board has also nominated a separate Operational Group which is now working in parallel with the Governance Board to bring together operational and commissioning oversight of services for children and young people with SEND and their families across Early Years, Education, Health and Social Care, promoting a joint approach to delivering the Surrey SEND Strategy 2015-20.

With regard to a refreshed Residential Strategy, this work has been affected by the need to focus on the design and implementation of a new SEND strategy in response to new legislation. However, a monitoring process has been established for all local authority special schools to report on levels of occupancy of beds so that only those beds used will be funded and not available beds, which is in line with new funding regulations for special schools. It remains the intention to formally consult with a view to altering the local authority's criteria for admission to a maintained residential special school, but this work is complex, involves numerous stakeholders, and has necessarily been delayed while the new SEND legislation is being implemented.

I hope this update is helpful, and I will be happy to update the Committee again for its meeting in April.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Kemeny', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning