

County Council Meeting – 19 May 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 10 and 24 March and 28 April 2015.

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 10 and 24 March and 28 April 2015 meeting are included within the agenda at item 20. 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 18 May 2015).

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

Statement from Mary Angell, Cabinet Member for Children and Families in relation to the Overview of the Looked after Children Bursary Fund

Surrey's Corporate Parenting Board continues to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our looked after children.

It was decided in 2012, that one way to do this would be to create a bursary fund used to give one off rewards to Surrey's Looked after Children (whether they live in Surrey or not) to encourage them to achieve their full potential. The fund is provided through contributions from all Members in Surrey County Council and is accessible to all Surrey's Looked after Children to support them.

The scheme is administered by a bursary panel made up of myself, John Orrick and Peter Hickman, as Members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

In 2014, we had some great success stories from our Looked after Children with many achieving in the fields of education, sport and music. The most popular requests were for laptops, tablets and equipment for hobbies such as sports, music and crafts.

Over the past year, there have been scores of applications for bursaries and I am pleased to say there were some really good ones that we were able to support and many children, as always, left our care to move on to great things. I would also like to say thank you to all Members who have contributed to the fund for their help and generosity. Without you, many of our children in care wouldn't experience these amazing opportunities and I hope that with your help, we can continue to improve on this in 2015/16.

Facts and figures

Our budget for the fund this year, kindly donated by you all was **£39,916** and we received 94 successful applications. This reflects the true value that the service and our children in care place on the bursary fund and clearly demonstrates the benefits of rewarding our vulnerable children.

We divided the money up more evenly this year, so we were able to put more of a focus on celebration events, as well as bursaries.

Figures from 2014/15

Celebration events

Total value: **£15,947**

Bursary fund

Number of successful bursary applications: **94**

Total value: **£19,824**

Requests:

- **45** requests for IT related equipment
- **35** requests for equipment for a hobby, interest or other activity
- **9** requests for lessons / courses / trips
- **4** requests for miscellaneous items

Nominations for the fund ranged from dealing with life difficulties and having the maturity to seek support to school/academic achievements and good attendance. Many children have also achieved personal milestones and have grown in confidence.

Bursary stories

I am so pleased we have been able to support some great bursary requests this year. Here are just a few examples of how the fund has changed the lives of some of our children (*all names have been anonymised):

Carpentry tools

William* is studying carpentry at college and has shown extraordinary talent and dexterity in this area. He has made a boat which local dignitaries have ridden in and his own shed in which to keep his fishing tackle. He has a 100% attendance rate at school and college and his ambition is to build a career in carpentry when he leaves education.

What was the bursary for?

The bursary fund has helped William to buy his own carpentry tools in order to pursue his dream.

Amount: £350

New bike

Dan* has been placed on a full care order since 2013. He grew up in difficult circumstances and as a result, education wasn't a priority. Last summer he sat his Maths and English GCSEs, which is a remarkable achievement having only started to read and write recently. Dan is the first child in his family to gain some qualifications and this year he is looking to re-sit his maths and English GCSEs (to improve his grades), as well as begin entry level science. He is gaining confidence and is keen to improve academically in the hope of getting a good job when he leaves care. He also loves cycling and thanks to the bursary fund he now has his own bike.

What was the bursary for?

A new push bike to take part in sponsored bike rides from Hayling Island to Brighton.

Amount: £300

Pony club holiday

Charlotte* has been looked after for seven years and has had a difficult year, including some issues which has meant her birth sister moving out. Charlotte has found it difficult to be separated from her sister, but has been very mature in seeking support to talk about these feelings. She has a keen interest in horses, is taking horse care as a BTEC at school and volunteers weekly at her local stables. She has been saving her pocket money to buy horse riding equipment, but the bursary fund has allowed her the opportunity to go on her dream pony club holiday.

What was the bursary for?

A week long residential pony club holiday in August and some new riding boots.

Amount: £350

Celebration events

As part of the fund, the Corporate Parenting Board also organises events, in conjunction with Children's Services, to celebrate the achievements of our children in care each year. These events are hugely appreciated by the looked after children and care leavers and are planned in consultation with our Children in Care Council. Events last year included:

Surrey Skills Fest' 2014

Surrey Skills Fest' 2014. Your life, Your choice, was held on Saturday 21 June at Bishop David Brown School in Woking. We were lucky to have one of the best days of the year and the sun was shining all day!

On the day young people had a go at new skills they would need as they learn to become more independent. For example, there was a flat pack furniture challenge – building a new piece of furniture from a flat pack kit as fast as possible. Other workshops included car maintenance, cooking on a budget, plumbing, electrics, careers advice and a performance of Chelsea's Choice, a play about child sexual exploitation.

To close the event there was a performance from DJ Luck and MC Neat and special guests from the TV show 'The Only Way Is Essex' chose the winners of the prize draw. Young people could enter the draw for the chance to win an iPad if they had completed skills workshops throughout the day.

Care Leavers' 'Celebrating You' event

On Thursday 30 May, young people and staff from Surrey's Care Leavers' Service gathered together at County Hall to celebrate the young people's achievements over the past year.

The Ashcombe Suite was transformed from an average council meeting room in the day, to a grand dining room by night. The theme was red and gold, with the girls dressed in ball gowns and the boys in suits and they enjoyed a spot of magic from two roaming magicians.

The young people were then treated to a three course dinner and an awards ceremony, where they all received at least one certificate each for their achievements. There were four categories: 'outstanding achievement', 'overcoming adversity', 'meeting a personal goal' and 'helping others'.

One young person said: **“An amazing, wonderful and fantastic evening. I really enjoyed myself at the ‘Celebrating You’ event.”**

Juniors’ jungle party

Our younger looked after children, from 0-12, were treated to a jungle themed party on Saturday 6 September at Woking Leisure Centre. Children had the chance to enjoy lots of activities from soft play, trampolines and a bouncy castle to face painting and cake decorating. They were also treated to party food and drink, which went down well with all the children and the adults!

Thorpe Park trip

Our older children also celebrated their achievements on Saturday 13 September with a trip to Thorpe Park. Young people aged 13-18 enjoyed the theme park in the day and each got to take home a photo from one of the rides. This was followed by a buffet dinner and an awards ceremony to give the young people a chance to celebrate their achievements.

Events to look forward to:

- **Surrey Skills Fest’ 2015** – Saturday 4 July at The Park School, Woking.

On behalf of all our Looked after Children, I want to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity in stepping up to the role of being corporate parents.

You have helped some of Surrey’s children to benefit from feeling a personal sense of achievement and allowed them to celebrate this and have some fun, where often they have previously experienced very little happiness.

I do hope you feel that the bursary and celebration fund is worthwhile, because I will be asking each of you to make a similar commitment in the new council year by contributing £500 from your local area committee allowance.

Thank you very much for your support.

Mary Angell
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
8 May 2015

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A SURREY TRANSPORT PLAN – BOROUGH / DISTRICT LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGIES AND FORWARD PROGRAMMES (TRANCHE 1 AND 2)

1. The County Council is producing Local Transport Strategies and Forward Programmes for each District and Borough in the county. The purpose of these strategies is to support the growth set out within District and Borough Local

Plans and provide a programme of transport infrastructure required to deliver this growth. The strategies also provide an evidence base for future funding bids.

2. The strategies have been produced in tranches. Tranche 1 and 2 have been completed and Tranche 3 comprises strategies for the three remaining Districts and Boroughs (Waverley, Runnymede, Guildford). These will be produced as and when the relevant Local Plans are developed.
3. The strategies are 'live documents' which will be updated at regular intervals to ensure they remain relevant and current. On approval, they will become part of the Surrey Transport Plan.
4. The strategies provide a commentary on the transport provision and transport problems in each District or Borough and provide possible solutions to the identified problems. The forward programmes seek to address the problems identified in the main documents of each strategy and mitigate the impact of future growth on the transport network.
5. Each Local Transport Strategy, which can be viewed online, contain an annex which presents a forward programme of transport infrastructure that the county and Borough/District Councils would like to see implemented in the relevant area, subject to funding. The programmes seek to address the problems identified in the main document of the strategy and mitigate the impact of future growth on the transport network.
6. The transport schemes included in the Forward Programmes range from small local schemes such as individual minor improvements schemes (local walking and cycling improvements), to large strategic improvement schemes.
7. **The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that** Tranche 1 & 2 of the Local Transport Strategies and Forward Programmes and their suggested objectives be approved for:
 - Elmbridge
 - Epsom and Ewell
 - Mole Valley
 - Reigate and Banstead
 - Spelthorne
 - Surrey Heath
 - Tandridge
 - Woking

And, that as part of the Surrey Transport Plan, the Local Transport Strategies and Forward Programmes be endorsed by Cabinet, for approval by County Council.

B YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2020

1. Surrey has some of the most successful youth justice outcomes in England and Wales. For example, between April 2013 and 2014, Surrey had the lowest number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time per 100,000 of the population in England. This is a trend that has been established since 2011 through a strategic emphasis towards preventative and

restorative interventions and means that a Surrey young person is less likely to enter adulthood with a criminal record than anywhere else in the country.

2. Within this high performing context, described by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales as 'exceptional', the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020 seeks to build on success to date by continuing to drive a sustainable and innovative programme of delivery that will ensure that Surrey remains at the forefront of best national youth justice practice, serving the best interests of young people, victims and communities.
3. Youth Justice relates to that area of the council's responsibilities for the management of young people who have committed criminal offences. These responsibilities are discharged in partnership with Surrey Police, Surrey & Sussex Probation and NHS Surrey. The organisation within the council with lead responsibility for youth justice is Surrey Youth Support Service (YSS).
4. The refreshed Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 covers a 5-year period and has been co-produced with Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) members. The clear partnership focus of the plan seeks to ensure that key services and agencies work together to deliver an effective youth justice system that provides value for money.
5. The decision to produce a 5-year plan represents a partnership consensus that a longer-term strategic plan provides the greatest opportunity to deliver sustainable high quality youth justice outcomes, which can withstand risks. The plan will be refreshed annually, reflecting any changes to the national and local youth justice landscape which impact on the strategic priorities.
6. The strategic priorities for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan are:
 - Prevent Youth Crime
 - Reduce Re-offending
 - Safeguard young people from harm
 - Protect the public from harm
7. In meeting the priorities, activity will include restorative justice approaches and the application of a clear safeguarding focus to prevent and reduce offending, improve victim satisfaction and raise public confidence.
8. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan was considered by the Children and Education Select Committee on 26 March 2015 and was co-produced by the Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB). Nick Wilson, Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families is the chairman of the YJPB. The plan was also shared for consultation and feedback with the membership of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee and the Children, Schools and Families Directorate Leadership Team.
9. The Cabinet **recommended** that the County Council approves the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020, attached as Appendix 1, to this report.

C REVISION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is the County Council's public statement of how it engages with the public and consultees on planning applications and planning policy documents.
2. It is a statutory requirement to produce the SCI and to keep it up to date. The current SCI was adopted in 2006 and this revision takes account of changes in legislation and policy and the county planning authority's commitment to making best use of electronic communication.
3. The key changes to the revised SCI statement are:
 - The approach to consultation and engagement is more streamlined which reflects the simplified plan making process;
 - The revised SCI is more succinct and readable than the current version;
 - The methods of contact for consultees have been updated to reflect increased use and availability of electronic communication;
 - The move to handling all planning applications in electronic form and enabling consultees to view online documents associated with planning applications;
 - The implementation of the recommendations as a result of the Planning Department review of service, including the use of an online planning portal to submit planning applications and the introduction of pre-application fees.
4. As well as changes to the legislation, the Planning Department underwent a review in 2013. One of the key changes that came out of the review was the move to use of the Planning Portal for the submission of planning applications and the publishing of application documents on the County Council's own website.
5. The Planning and Regulatory Committee was consulted on 10 December 2014. The Committee felt that the document needed an executive summary so that people will understand what information the document contains. An executive summary has been included in the SCI.
6. The Cabinet **recommended** that the County Council adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

3. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A CUSTOMER PROMISE – THE COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO DELIVERING EXCELLENT SERVICE

1. On 10 February 2015 County Council approved the Corporate Strategy and agreed that focusing on 'Resident Experience' is one of the organisation's three strategic goals.
2. To better define 'Resident Experience' the Council conducted research including speaking to staff, Members and customers about what they thought were the most important principles behind excellent customer service.

3. The research and feedback has been used to create the Council's new Customer Promise which will be used as a framework to improve 'Resident Experience'.
4. The following four principles emerged as being most important to people:
 - Treating people in the right way
 - Making it easy
 - Keeping people informed
 - Getting it right

These principles have been used to create the new Customer Promise.

5. The Cabinet **approved** the new Customer Promise (attached as Appendix 3 to the submitted report) and the proposed steps to embed it into the organisation to improve 'Resident Experience'.

B QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2015

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 two decisions during the last quarter, as follows:

1. Icelandic Bank Deposit – Glitnir Auction

(taken at the Leader of the Council's Individual Decision Making meeting on 29 January 2015)

Reason for Urgency:

That the decision cannot be reasonably deferred because a decision was required by the Local Government Association's solicitors by Friday 30 January 2015.

2. Approval to award a contract for the provision of infrastructure and security for the Magna Carta event being held on 15 June 2015

(taken at the Leader of the Council's Individual Decision Making meeting on 17 February 2015)

Reason for Urgency:

That the decision cannot be reasonably be deferred because the contract needed to be signed in order that the proper arrangements could be put in place for the event on 15 June 2015.

**Mr David Hodge
Leader of the Council
8 May 2015**

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