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Children's Services and
Safeguarding

Our purpose

Our purpose is to ensure that every child and young person will be safe, happy and healthy and have the personal confidence, skills and opportunities to contribute.

Our responsibilities include the following areas:

- **Safeguarding:** To protect Surrey's children and young people to keep them safe from harm and neglect.
- **Early Help:** To work together with partners to identify need and provide the right level of support at the right time.
- **Children in need of help and protection:** To identify the needs of vulnerable children and young people who require help and protection.
- **Children Looked After;** To ensure the children we look after have the same opportunities as their peers and realise their potential.
- **Recording and reporting capacity and demand** so that the right children access the right services at the right time.

For more information on what we do, contact caroline.budden@surreycc.gov.uk

Our challenges and opportunities

We work with partners to promote integrated Early Help to families, including universal services to identify and support vulnerable children and their families. In 2015/16, we will enhance provision for children and young people requiring long term support to promote lasting and positive outcomes. Resources will be prioritised and reviewed to meet a range of volatile demands with high costs, in particular an increasing number of children who are at risk of significant harm (1,042), which includes those at risk of child sexual exploitation and Children Looked After requiring placements to address multiple and complex needs. We will ensure that Children Looked After have the right support and stability through appropriate placements and education provision in Surrey.

Our key actions

We will prioritise five actions for 2015/16 to support achievement of the council's three corporate strategy goals of *wellbeing, economic prosperity* and *resident experience*.

1. With partners, protect Surrey's children and young people to keep them safe from harm and neglect so that they can grow up in an environment that allows them to achieve their best.
2. Review arrangements to minimise risk and provide effective support for children at risk of child sexual exploitation.
3. Support the Early Help approach with our partners by building confidence to work with families to prevent the escalation of need.
4. Focus on the quality of assessment processes to ensure that decisions are timely and achieve the best outcomes for children.
5. Work to extend the number of foster placements available in Surrey to minimise placement of children out of county and at a distance.

Our budget

The council has an operating revenue budget of £1.7 billion. A capital programme worth £694 million is also planned over the next five years. The charts below show how Childrens Services' spending has been allocated for 2015/16.

**Gross Revenue
Expenditure:
£96.0m**

Referral, Assessment and Care Management, £22.5m	Looked After Children, £42.9m	Other Front Line Services, £9.7m	Children with Disabilities, £11.6m	Central and Support Functions, £9.4m
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