

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2012****REPORT OF: MRS MARY ANGELL, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES DIRECTORATE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011-2012****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report details the achievements of the Children, Schools and Families Directorate in 2011-12. Performance data predominantly reflects the financial year 2011-12 apart from schools data which reflects the 2010/11 academic year. The timing of the report reflects the need to reflect key messages from the Ofsted inspection of children's services in the Autumn 2012. The Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Directorate has made good progress over the past year. A recent Ofsted inspection found Surrey County Council's arrangements for the protection of children to be effective. The directorate has developed a children and young people's strategy for 2012-17 order to sustain continued improvement.

The directorate received national recognition for the implementation of its new integrated children's system (ICS) and for an innovative savings scheme for looked after children. Other successes for the directorate include continuing low levels of young people who are not in education, employment and training (NEET) and reducing first-time entrance to the youth justice system to an all-time low.

Pupils in Surrey's maintained schools continue to perform well at each key stage and in most cases remained above the national average in 2011. Results for pupils attending the virtual school for children at key stage 1 continue to be well above national averages for children in care and at key stage 4 are the highest ranking amongst statistical neighbours.

The directorate's annual report 2011/12 details work that will be undertaken over the next year to enable the delivery of the best outcomes at all stages of childhood and support the most vulnerable children and their families. Financial pressures in the next few years will have a strong impact on the directorate as will toughened inspection frameworks for multi-agency safeguarding and schools. Following the Ofsted inspection of children's services there is still much to do, particularly in strengthening the cohesiveness of partnership working and implementing a coordinated programme of early help. Shared understanding of service thresholds is needed as is the embedding of the use of the common assessment framework (CAF) as a holistic tool for responding to children's needs. These areas will be taken forward through a public value programme, the children and young people's partnership and the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The good progress that has been made by the Directorate and achievements over the last year be noted.
2. The publication of the CSF directorate annual report be agreed.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the progress and plans detailed in the 2011/2012 annual report and allow them to be published and shared with the wider council and its partners.

DETAILS:

1. The directorate has made good progress over the past 12 months and this was confirmed by the Ofsted inspection of Surrey County Council's arrangements for the protection of children in September 2012. The inspection found that the directorate's work to keep children safe is effective. The directorate is child focused, listening and making a difference to vulnerable children and young people. A number of highly innovative projects are underway to improve outcomes for children and improve value for money.
2. The children and young people's strategy for 2012-17 has been developed in order to sustain continued improvement. This will help the directorate work more closely with its partners and with children, young people and their families to provide high performing services that deliver the best outcomes at all stages of childhood, and support the most vulnerable.
3. The children and young people's strategy is underpinned by the 'lifecourse outcomes' approach, which aims to help the directorate better understand the types of support that children and young people need at each stage of their childhood, and enable better working with partners. It is intended to develop a common narrative for the directorate's aspirations for children and young people and will become a corner piece of its commissioning framework. It has four priorities that reflect the areas the directorate most need to focus on with partners: prevention, protection, participation and potential.

Leadership and management

4. Nick Wilson continued as Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families. Councillor Mary Angell continues as statutory Lead Member for Children's Services. Councillor Linda Kemeny replaced Councillor Tim Hall earlier this year and holds the Children and Learning portfolio. Councillor Kay Hammond has continued in her role as portfolio holder for Community Safety (containing services for Young People). The Deputy Directors Caroline Budden, P-J Wilkinson and Garath Symonds have also played an important role in supporting Nick Wilson's leadership of the directorate.
5. Ofsted found that senior leaders within Surrey County Council are well supported by elected members and have delivered significant improvements. There is also a good understanding of strengths and areas for development

within the council through well developed performance management and quality assurance structures.

Prevention

6. Early help is provided through a preventative approach so that children and young people are provided with additional support alongside traditional case work to prevent the need for more acute or specialist services. The preventative service comprises three teams: family group conference, extended hours service and HOPE.
7. The family group conference (FGC) service works with young people who are on the cusp of being accommodated. A key success of the FGC in the first quarter of 2011/2012 (April to August 2011) was that 128 children were prevented from being looked after.
8. The extended hours service became operational in September 2011, providing practical and therapeutic multi-agency support for young people on the edge of becoming accommodated. Feedback from service users and partners has been positive.
9. HOPE offers a therapeutic day service for young people with mental health issues who are at risk of family or placement breakdown. In 2011-2012, HOPE worked with 119 young people. Key successes include preventing 35 young people from requiring admission to a child psychiatric unit, and increasing average attendance to 79% among young people of compulsory and over compulsory school age, compared to 24% average attendance before their involvement with HOPE.
10. From April 2011 to March 2012, 1381 common assessment frameworks (CAF)s were completed, exceeding the target of 1,000 for that period. It is likely that the target for 2012/2013 (1,000) will be exceeded, with 521 CAFs completed between April to July 2012. There has been a focus on auditing CAFs, monitoring outcomes and gathering user feedback in order to evaluate the effectiveness of early help. Work continues to encourage services, partners and frontline staff to use the CAF appropriately as a holistic assessment and response to children's needs, and to encourage consistent quality of assessment.
11. Surrey continues to have one of the lowest teenage pregnancy rates in the country. Latest data (2010) indicates that the conception rate for girls under 18 in 2008-2010 was down to 21.4 per 1000 from 22.3 per 1000 in 2007-2009. This is lower than the teenage pregnancy rate average in England 2008-2010 of 38.1 per 1000. The rates for sexually transmitted infections for young people between 2009/10 and 2010/11 fell amongst 15-19 year olds but increased for those under 15. Nationally, the sexually transmitted infections rate fell slightly for both under 15s and 15-19s. Over the past year the Youth Support Service has established new borough based local sexual health schemes. School nurse and drop in clinics have been established in target areas, and are working to gain the 'You're Welcome' quality standard accreditation so that they reach out to young people who might otherwise be reluctant to use them.
12. The targeted mental health in schools programme has been extended to over 200 schools, offering training in mental health awareness. The targeted

mental health in schools team will continue to promote and develop the key messages to all schools in Surrey, thus ensuring more effective mental and emotional health support for all pupils.

13. Young people's housing support panels became operational in September 2012, and a new homelessness prevention service aims to ensure no young person is homeless or is placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.
14. Surrey is implementing the national troubled families agenda through the Surrey Family Support Programme. The government defines troubled families as those who are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and have a child not in school and an adult on out-of-work benefits. This definition does not cover all the families with multiple problems who live in Surrey so a database is being developed with input from the Department for Work and Pensions, the police and other partners to target families who would most benefit from the programme. The Surrey Family Support Programme has agreed to work jointly with partners to support 1,000 families with multiple problems over the next two years. Local coordination of this work will be led by a small team of staff managed by each borough and district council and supported by the County Council, police and other agencies. All families eligible for the support programme will undergo a single multi-agency assessment, incorporating the common assessment framework, and will have a single multi-agency plan covering the whole family. A team around the family approach will bring together all agencies and professionals working with the family with the aim of intelligently coordinating people and resources. Each of the families in the programme will be given 12 weeks of intensive support provided by family coordinators based in the local borough and district teams.
15. The Surrey Family Support Programme is currently working with partners in other directorates, the voluntary sector and district and borough colleagues to coordinate support and information for families affected by welfare reforms. This will include training and briefings for staff, and publicity about services that can offer advice/advocacy. The child poverty chapter of the Surrey joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) will be reviewed in 2013, to inform the directorate's on ongoing strategic approach to child poverty.

Protection

16. Following a review of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB), four area safeguarding groups were established in 2011. Key achievements include championing responses to the problem of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and development of a new children's services threshold document. Work next year will ensure that service thresholds are adhered to by all key agencies and establish a clear joint commitment with partners of an integrated early help offer.
17. Domestic abuse continues to be a significant priority and a number of workstreams are being developed and implemented. A service level agreement is now in place for a centralised commissioning arrangement for specialist domestic abuse outreach services, using service providers and service user views to inform commissioning.
18. In line with national trends, the numbers of looked after children continued to rise in 2011/12, reaching 807 at the end of March 2012. 39.5% of looked after children were placed outside Surrey (March 2012). Children placed within their

own kinship networks grew from 40 in April 2011 to 100 at the end of March 2012. Most kinship placements are within Surrey, with extended families, allowing existing relationships and commitments to continue.

19. Following a request for more help with savings, a scheme has been developed for looked after children that will see the council match savings made by young people, and the development of a bursary funded by county councillors. This is the first scheme of its kind nationally.
20. In January 2012, Surrey County Council Children's Services won 'best project delivery' at the UK Public Sector Digital Awards for the implementation of a new integrated children's system (ICS). Ofsted praised Surrey for the swift implementation of the new system and resulting improvements in service delivery. The new ICS has improved safeguarding of children through improved increased visibility of data and a reduction in the duplication of records.

Participation

21. Following major reorganisation, a new Youth Support Service provides an integrated response for Surrey's most vulnerable young people, complemented by the commissioning of a range of targeted provision for those at risk of failing to make a successful post-16 transition.
22. The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has remained low relative to statistical neighbours. Latest figures for June 2012 show that Surrey was one of the best performing authorities (at 4.1%), ranking second among its statistical neighbours.
23. The percentage of young people achieving level 2 qualifications by age 19 increased by 2% to 84.6% in 2010/11. This meant that the 2012 target of 83.2% was exceeded a year early. Similar progress was seen at level 3, with a record high of 65.5% attaining this level. Local targets were again exceeded early as the 2011 level 3 results were above the 2015 target of 65%.
24. Surrey has achieved an 85% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system between 2008 and 2012, the lowest per capita in England, with the projection for 2012 -13 indicating a further 50% reduction. First time entrants to the youth justice system are now the lowest ever. Use of custody is the lowest per capita use of custody in England for any sizeable authority and represents a 73% reduction in the use of custody in Surrey over the last five years. The most recent Ministry of Justice figures (March 2012) indicate a 28.3% re-offending rate for young people in Surrey. The continued downward trend is encouraging against a flat performance in the south-east region and an increase nationally.
25. There has been a significant increase in the number of young people requesting advocacy support, 34 in 2011-2012 compared to 7 in the previous 12 months, suggesting that more children and young people are aware of their rights. In response to this increased demand, the service has run an advocacy training course for new advocates. Following the training, several new external advocates have been added. The training is being extended to social workers to provide issue based advocacy support to young people making a complaint.

26. The directorate received 326 complaints, an increase of 31%, with a corresponding increase in complaints made directly by young people. Three quarters of complaints were responded to within 10 working days at the first stage of the process. The directorate improved the quality of responses at stage one and recorded a low level, 3%, of escalation to stage two. The team is focusing on resolution and learning from complaints and works closely with senior managers in operational services to address improvements to practise.

Potential

27. Early years' provider quality is consistently above regional and national averages, with 81% of early years providers achieving good or outstanding in Ofsted inspections, compared to 78% for the south east region and 74% nationally.
28. The proportion of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage reaching the national indicator (NI) 72 milestone (good progress in the early learning goals) has increased from 64.1% in 2010 to 65.7% and indications for end of school year (July 2012) show a further increase to 70.4%. The gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the early years foundation stage and the median (NI 92) has reduced from 30.1% in 2010 to 28.5%, with indications for July 2012 showing a further reduction to 27.6%. The gender gap has reduced from 17.8% to 15.4%, with boys having made good progress during the period. There have been steady improvements in the proportion of children gaining six or more points in the personal, social and emotional development scales. Focus continues on targeted intervention work for children with English as an additional language, children with special educational needs, and to address boys' writing in the early years.
29. At key stage 1, Surrey is ranked in the top 10 local authorities nationally for both reading and maths and in the top 20 for writing. Key stage 2 results in individual subjects improved by at least one percentage point in 2011, which is on a par with national figures.
30. At key stage 4 the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A* to C including English and maths increased from 62% to 63.4%; this was five percentage points above the national average in 2011.
31. Pupils eligible for free school meals showed improved attainment across all key stages in the 2011 results and narrowed the gap with their peers.
32. Of all school inspections carried out to 31 March 2012, 71.9% of Surrey state-funded schools were judged to be good or outstanding compared with 69.8% nationally. 27.3% of schools were judged as 'outstanding', compared to 21.2% nationally. Fourteen schools were judged as 'inadequate', representing 3.6% of Surrey's schools and academies, compared with 2.3% nationally. New data has since been published by Ofsted. The new data is included in the provisional education outcomes paper which is item 8 on the agenda at today's Cabinet.
33. In January 2012, 5,345 pupils (2% of 0-19s) had statements of special educational needs (SEN) maintained by Surrey. 98% of statutory assessments are completed within prescribed timescales. The percentage of pupils with statements attending schools in Surrey (regardless of which local

authority maintains the statement) has remained consistent over the last five years at 3%. The SEN strategy is currently being revised to improve the range of special school provision and support the inclusion of more pupils.

34. Total permanent exclusions figures for 2012, based on five half terms of data, are on a par with the previous academic year, following several year-on-year reductions (43 exclusions in half-terms 1-5 in 2011/12). Fixed term exclusions continued to fall, with 4440 in half-terms 1-5 in 2012, compared to 4561 for the same period in 2011.
35. The virtual school is for children in care who attend real school settings with a nominated designated teacher acting as their 'champion'. Results at Surrey's virtual school at key stage 1 continue to be well above all national averages for children in care. Significant improvements continue in reading and writing, with reading levels at 83% approaching those for all pupils in Surrey (86%) and the 2011 maths result (92%) exceeding the national figure for all children (90%) and just one percentage point lower than for all Surrey children. Despite high numbers of children with a statement of special educational needs and others on the code of practice in the key stage 2 cohort, results from last year were maintained in both English and maths. 58% of pupils made expected progress in maths between key stage 1 and key stage 2, and 68% in English. Performance at key stage 2 in English is below national averages, but the gap has been closed in maths and Surrey's ranking against statistical neighbours has improved for all measures.
36. The virtual school in 2011 saw a considerable improvement at key stage 4 in all measures, delivering the best results since the introduction of higher thresholds. Just over half of all children in care achieved five or more A*-G grades - an 11% improvement; 37% achieved five or more A*-C grades - a 14% improvement and six percentage points higher than the national average; and 22% achieved five or more A*-C including English and maths - an 11% improvement and nine percentage points higher than the national average. These results place Surrey as the highest ranking local authority among its statistical neighbours.
37. The 2010/11 overall absence rate for secondary pupils on roll in out-of-county educational provision pupils showed an improvement of just under 2%, despite a slight increase in the overall number of fixed term exclusions. The absence rate for pupils on roll in Surrey provision remained static, despite a significant reduction in fixed term exclusions.
38. Surrey, as a member of SE7¹, is one of 20 national special educational needs and disability (SEND) pathfinders who are currently trialling the Government's plans for a new approach for young people with SEND. The aim is to design and test a new single, integrated assessment process and plan. The Surrey pathfinder team has recruited families to trial the new process and participate in joint training and network meetings with key workers who will support them through the trial process. According to interim feedback from national evaluation, Surrey's progress is generally in line with the national picture but has been particularly successful in engaging parents and carers. New challenges are anticipated as the pathfinder moves into its delivery phase, and a number of possible solutions may need to be trialed and tested.

¹ Surrey, Hampshire, Kent, Medway, Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex

39. Surrey's Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) children and young people needs assessment was published in 2012. It has been welcomed across a range of services, with staff commenting that it has deepened their understanding of GRT needs and issues and raising awareness for future commissioning. The needs analysis and associated chapter in the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) have been commended by the organisation 'Friends, Families and Travellers' as examples of good practice for other local authorities. It is expected that the needs analysis to inform development of a strategy in the coming months.
40. A children and young people's partnership board has been established, consisting of key commissioning agencies. It aims to focus on those things where two or more partners working together can add value. In June 2012 a peer challenge team observed 'a strong appetite' among partners for the development of a collective narrative about Surrey's vulnerable children. Partnership work in the next 12 months will build on this and also focus on delivering on the government's troubled families agenda by implementing the family support programme across Surrey; developing an inter-agency children's plan, and implementation of an integrated child protection unit.

CONSULTATION:

41. The Children, Schools and Families directorate annual report has been developed with input from managers across the directorate and in discussion with Cabinet Members.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

42. The Annual Report highlights the successes of the CSF directorate over the past year. It also includes information on future work to continue to improve outcomes for some groups of children and young people. This will enable the directorate to anticipate and mitigate against risks which may have an adverse effect on some groups of children and young people in the future.
43. Budget cuts in the next few years will have a strong impact on the directorate, so in order to mitigate against this risk and sustain continued improvement the directorate has developed its children and young people's strategy for 2012-17.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

44. The Directorate budget for 2011/12 was £283m, with allocations to services as follows:
- Schools & Learning £187m
 - Children's Services £81m
 - Services for Young People £15m
45. 2011/12 was the first year of the 2011 comprehensive spending review, with the Directorate being affected by grant rationalisation and the removal of targeted ring-fencing for many grants such as Sure Start and Aiming High. The economic climate worsened during the financial year and there were ongoing concerns about further reductions to public funds. The Directorate

successfully achieved target savings of £10.5m in 2011/2012, and, in planning for further significant savings over the next 5 years (over £40m), have used an additional underspend in 2012/13 to help achieve further savings and address the increasing demand of child protection cases and services.

46. The final Dedicated School Grant for 2011/12 was £688m. This reduced by £62m during the financial year as academy schools were established. During the financial year, 21 schools converted to academy status, which represents nearly 6% of the total schools in Surrey. The 2011/12 directorate capital budget was £56m and mainly funded the statutory provision of additional school places and school maintenance. There will be a capital investment of £244m over the next 5 years for the provision of additional school places across the county.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

47. The Section 151 Officer confirms that all material financial information has been included in this report.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

48. The 2011/2012 Annual Report details how the Children, Schools and Families Directorate meets its statutory requirements. We are also working to respond to new government policy and legislation that will have an impact on services and children, young people and families in Surrey. The Directorate will continue to work to meet current and future legislative requirements.

Equalities and Diversity

49. The vision of the children and young people's strategy 2012 – 2017 is to deliver high performing services that deliver the best outcomes at all stages of childhood, and support the most vulnerable. A central part of the work of the directorate is to narrow the gap in outcomes between the majority of children and young people in Surrey and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. The annual report details work that the Children, Schools and Families Directorate have undertaken to improve the outcomes for protected groups. These actions include the Surrey's Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) children and young people needs assessment, the special educational needs and disability (SEND) pathfinders pilots for disabled children and the early help and preventative approach.
50. There is no specific equalities impact assessment (EIA) for the annual report as it does not propose any new policy, function or service changes and the recommendation for Cabinet Members is for publication of the annual report. Any new policy, function or service changes detailed in the annual report within the CSF directorate will fully consider the equalities impact assessment on protected groups.

Other Implications:

51. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	Set out below.
Climate change	No significant implications arising from this report)
Carbon emissions	No significant implications arising from this report

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

52. Surrey's looked after children achieve less well across a range of social, health and educational outcomes when compared to their Surrey peers, all of which impacts upon their life chances and future prospects. The CSF directorate continues to take account of its corporate parenting responsibilities and the impact on looked after children. The directorate also this year launched the looked after children savings scheme which was the first of its kind in the country in order to help looked after children's financial skills development. Paragraph 5.4 of annex one details work to support looked after children and the actions to be taking over the coming year to improve outcomes for this group and continue to ensure Surrey is an effective corporate parent.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

53. The 2011/2012 annual report details the work the directorate has taken to make children and young people in Surrey safe and also the actions the directorate will take over the coming year to ensure that children and young people remain safe.

Public Health implications

54. The 2011/2012 annual report identifies actions that have been undertaken with a view to improving both the physical and mental health of children and young people in Surrey. Actions include the HOPE service which is an early intervention for young people with mental health issues and sexual health schemes.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

55. The 2011/2012 annual report will be made available to the council and partners. The CSF directorate will continue to work to deliver the best outcomes at all stages of childhood, and support the most vulnerable

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Consulted:

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Annexes:

- Annex 1 – Children Schools and Families Directorate Annual Report 2011-12

Sources/background papers:

- Ofsted Inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children 19 October 2012.
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