

CABINET – 18 JULY 2017

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Members Questions

Question (1) Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

According to the Care Quality Commission, one in three nursing homes and a quarter of care homes are unsafe. How many care homes in Surrey are rated as unsafe and which of these have contracts with Surrey County Council?

Reply:

1. There are currently 6 care homes in Surrey that are rated as 'Inadequate' for the Key CQC Question 'Safe'.
2. Surrey has contracts with these homes.

Adult Social Care Business Intelligence receive weekly updates of all CQC inspections. Where a provider is rated as Requires Improvement, Business Intelligence write to the provider to request a copy of their CQC action plan. An Area Quality Assurance Manager assesses the action plan and considers what action is necessary to support the provider to improve, including for example monitoring visits or support from a CCG Care Home Quality Team.

Where a provider has a CQC action plan the quality assurance team will monitor the home's progress against this plan. In addition, when a Quality Assurance Manager carries out a monitoring visit to a care home, a report will be issued with the provider outlining any recommendations for improvement following the visit. This report once agreed is shared with the CQC. The QA team also expect providers to have their own improvement plan in place and this is also assessed at monitoring visits.

Mr Mel Few
Cabinet Member for Adults
18 July 2017

Question (2) Chris Botten (Caterham Hill):

Can the Cabinet member confirm that enough providers have been secured by the county council in order to fulfil the government pledge of 30 hours a week free childcare to working parents? Can the cabinet member guarantee that those parents meeting the criteria from September 1st will all receive an offer?

Reply:

The implementation of the new 30 hours childcare development is a national change that is a challenge for Local Authorities across the country. This change entitles parents of the majority of three and four year olds in the country to receive 30 hours of free childcare each week. This supports children's early development and parents/carers' ability to return to work. An update report on our progress in preparing for this change previously went to Education and Skills Board on 8 March 2017.

Preparation for the roll out of 30 hours in Surrey has included widespread consultation with childcare providers from the private, voluntary and maintained sector. We are pleased with the level of engagement and already have over 385 settings committing to the delivery of 30 hours funded Early Education from September 2017 and we expect this to increase further alongside the national campaign. We are working in partnership with providers to ensure that sufficient places are available, in line with demand, within each community. With this in mind we will continue to monitor the level of forecast demand and will respond with a targeted approach where required. We are confident, based on modelling of demand, that there will be sufficient places from September 1st to meet the need of parents who have registered to receive 30 hours, currently 2076, however we cannot guarantee that they will be able to access their funded hours in precisely the pattern or location of their choice. We are monitoring demand closely to address areas of shortfall and manage risks associated with this change, as we would for any large scale change.

We know that there are more settings planning to deliver 30 hours who are not yet registered, but equally there will be more parents registering in the coming months. The Department for Education has estimated that there are around 8,500 families in Surrey who may be eligible to take up 30 hours. Whilst we would not expect to reach this number from the outset, we are forecasting that numbers requiring provision will be increasing each term over the next two to three years as parents choose to take up provision. The rate of take-up is difficult to estimate, but we are confident in the ability of the early years market in Surrey to respond, with further market development by SCC to stimulate growth.

To develop the market, we have been working with providers to develop and issue information, guidance, resources and toolkits to help providers understand how this additional funding will work, to stimulate 30 hour places and support future sustainability of their businesses. The Early Years and Childcare Commissioning Team are available to work with providers needing extra support, advice and guidance and have worked across all sectors, including childminders and out of school providers to look at ways of offering partnerships where the 30 hours cannot be accessed from one provider.

Additionally, we have secured £600K capital from Department for Education for development of new places. At my Cabinet Member meeting on 4 July 2017, I agreed four projects from this capital allocation, with further projects to follow. These four projects will create 154 new 30 hour childcare places in areas of the county where there are identified childcare sufficiency issues and also higher proportions of families with lower incomes, including parts of Horley, Ash and Camberley. These projects are particularly important, recognising the current limits on availability of SCC capital funding, and we will continue to pursue opportunities to secure additional capital funding.

We are developing a new early years commissioning strategy for the Council, in partnership with the sector. This will set priorities in terms of needs, gaps in provision and demand for 30 hours places, as the picture of parental take-up becomes clearer. We plan to finalise the new commissioning strategy by the end of February 2018. We will also be developing new dynamic, sufficiency mapping tools, to ensure that we continue to grow provision of 30 hours childcare in line with parental demand during 2018.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):

In the last Cabinet meeting it was confirmed that of the £94m savings already agreed in the MTFP for the 2017/18 financial year:

- £30m have been delivered
 - £36m are on-track
 - £9m of savings still require to be identified
 - £7m now considered to be undeliverable.
- i. Please can these be itemised against the Service savings schedule in the MTFP (p70-p75 of Cabinet papers for 28 March 2017).
- ii. Please can the Cabinet provide an update of how the additional savings not identified in the MTFP, as well as those found to be undeliverable, propose to be met.

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The answer to your concern is contained in the Budget Monitoring report.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
18 July 2017

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