

Children and Education Select Committee



DATE: 7 September

TITLE: Commissioning Plan for Children, Schools and Families 2017-22

Purpose of report: Policy Development and Review

Introduction:

1. The vision for Children, Schools and Families (CSF) is for all children and young people in Surrey to be happy, healthy, safe and confident in their future. Most children in Surrey achieve good outcomes and make a successful transition to adulthood; for children with disadvantages such as poverty, discrimination or disability this is not the case. These vulnerable children in Surrey do less well than their peers in Surrey and some of these children do less well than those living in other local authority areas. The purpose of the CSF Commissioning Plan is to continue realising our vision by actively focussing and targeting our resources on the most vulnerable children, young people and families in Surrey to help them achieve better outcomes.
2. The CSF Commissioning Plan is developed at a time when unprecedented financial pressures are being faced by Surrey County Council, stemming from decreasing funding from central government and increasing demand for Council services.
3. In summary, the CSF Commissioning Plan provides an overall strategic framework for Children, Schools and Families for 2017-2022 outlining how CSF will deliver key strategic commissioning actions and some of the specific savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The need and demand in Surrey

1. Most children in Surrey achieve good outcomes and make a successful transition to adulthood; for children with disadvantages¹ such as poverty, discrimination or disability this is not always the case. Of Surrey's 287,600 children and young people aged 0-19,

¹ Specific children and families with poorer outcomes can include children with special educational needs and disabilities; looked after children and care leavers; Children in Need; children living in poverty; young carers; teenage parents and their children; gypsy, roma and travellers children and young people; children affected by domestic abuse, and; the children of prisoners.

10% on average live in poverty. In 2015/16, 20,500 were in receipt of free school meals and the Council supported:

- 4,547 Children in Need² in 2016/17, potentially rising to 5,435 by 2020/21
- 714 looked after children³, potentially rising to 754 by 2020/21
- 330 care leavers⁴
- 6,843 Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

2. There is also additional need and demand in Surrey:

- contacts to social care are increasing; 77,811 in 2016/17, rising from 60,915 in 2011/12.
- 340 children were deemed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation in 2015/16
- 11,000 extra schools places are required by 2021.

Financial pressure

- In 2017/18, the total expenditure for the CSF directorate is £454m and the total income is £253m, which leaves a total net budget of £201m. Reduction in government grants; our statutory duties, increasing use of high need statutory services and population increases mean that the Children, Schools and Families directorate currently faces significant demand and financial pressures, as outlined in the plan.
3. This means the CSF directorate must deliver £54m of savings by 2020 as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020. This will require a new operating model for early help and commissioning services in new ways to improve outcomes and reduce cost.

Outcomes and strategic actions

4. Through analysis three overall **outcomes** and nine specific **strategic actions** have been identified.
5. CSF Outcomes:
- Children and young people have good wellbeing
 - Children and young people are safe from harm and danger
 - Children and young people achieve their potential
6. CSF Strategic actions:
- Prevent problems escalating by ensuring children, young people and families needing extra help receive timely support
 - Provide a positive experience of SEND services and support for children, young people and families
 - Provide the right early support to promote good emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Prevent and reduce the impact of abuse (including domestic abuse) and neglect

² The main reason why children in Surrey become a Child in Need is 'abuse and neglect'.

³ Not including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

⁴ Not including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

- Provide placements or accommodation for looked after children, care leavers, unaccompanied asylum seeking children that are appropriate, local and value for money
- Prevent and reduce the impact of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and children who go missing from home and care
- Increase the educational achievement, progress and engagement of vulnerable children and young people throughout their life course (looked after children, children in need, free school meals, SEND, 'vulnerable groups')
- Provide educational opportunities for children and young people with SEND in local schools or colleges that offer the best value for money
- Increase participation in education, training and employment post 16 for children and young people in our 'vulnerable groups'.

A systematic programme of commissioning

7. In order to achieve our vision, outcomes and strategic actions and savings, we will transform the way we doing things by using evidence-based tools and approaches, take a preventative approach by developing an early help offer and reform our practice by using Safer Surrey.
8. Children, Schools and Families will also develop six thematic commissioning plans to support the overarching CSF Commissioning Plan.
 - Early Years
 - Education and Skills
 - Early Help
 - Health
 - SEND
 - Social Care and Wellbeing
9. These thematic commissioning plans will set out how we will reshape the market and transform operating models. Each plan will include a thematic needs analysis including service user perspective; financial context, required savings and analysis; outcomes; market analysis; commissioning intentions; key commissions; and key performance indicators.

CSF Change Programmes

10. Children, Schools and Families directorate is also undertaking **five change programmes**, alongside the thematic commissioning plans, to support the transformation required to deliver our commissioning intentions, outcomes and savings. These are:
 - Children's Improvement Plan (safeguarding)
 - Early Help Transformation
 - Education in Partnership
 - Information Management.
 - SEND Development Plan
11. We have developed performance measures against our strategic actions which will show us if we have been successful. These measures are shown at the end of the CSF Commissioning Plan.

Conclusions:

12. Surrey County Council is facing unprecedented demand and financial challenges. We need to find new ways to deliver our services in this environment.
13. We need to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, whilst tackling this increasing demand and shrinking financial budgets.
14. To achieve our vision, outcomes and strategic actions and savings we will transform the way we do things, with a priority on Early Help, re-commissioning to improve outcomes and reduce cost, reforming our social care practice alongside our other improvement programmes and detailed thematic commissioning plans.

Recommendations:

- a. Endorse the Children, Schools and Families Commissioning Plan 2017-2022 for consideration by Cabinet on 26/9/17
- b. Agree any areas for further consideration by Cabinet.

Next steps:

Cabinet to agree Children, Schools & Families Commissioning Plan 26/9/17

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Sources/background papers: