

*County Council Meeting – 20 March 2018***REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on 27 February 2018.

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 27 February meeting is included within the agenda at item 13. Any 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 19 March 2018).

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.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A EARLY HELP STRATEGY

The Cabinet was asked to agree the draft Early Help Strategy to address: 'Preventing problems escalated by identifying issues early and ensuring children, young people and families needing extra help receive timely, preventative support'.

The report set out that Surrey County Council had been working together with partners to plan and deliver a transformation of Surrey's Early Help offer. Much progress had been achieved including: co-production of a joint vision; formation of an Early Help Transformation Board, chaired by Lead Member for Children; introduction of Local Early Help Advisory Boards; and development of SCC's Family Service, bringing together professionals across a range of services. This report sets out a new Early Help Strategy, building on the previous strategy which ran from 2013 to 2017.

The Early Help Strategy 2018-22 sets out a clear call to action for all Surrey partners to work together to ensure children receive the right help at the right time, to increase their resilience and ensure they have safe, nurturing relationships that enable them to thrive and build the skills they need for adulthood. The Council's financial challenge, which demands £9.7 million savings from Early Help by 2020, presents a real opportunity to re-focus resources on those children who are in greatest need.

The Early Help Strategy 2018 - 2022 can be found within Item 6 of the 27 February 2018 Cabinet agenda.

Link: <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5813>

The Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the proposed Early Help Strategy and development of the place-based Local Family Partnership model across Surrey be agreed.

2. To delegate to the Assistant Director, Commissioning and Prevention, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, decision making on any minor changes to the Early Help Strategy arising from discussions at the Early Help Transformation Board and Children and Young People's Partnership.
3. That the specific high-level Early Help commitments for Surrey County Council set out below, be endorsed:
 - Transform SCC services through integration with others at a local level;
 - Coordinate partners at county and local levels to implement the Early Help Strategy;
 - Identify children who need Early Help through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and provide case management and coordination (with others) for children and families with multiple needs;
 - Commission local, place-based preventative services with our partners; and
 - Maintain a robust joint-understanding with partners of the needs of children and families in Surrey and the impact of Early Help.

Reasons for Decisions

The proposed new Early Help Strategy and system model, with Local Family Partnerships at its heart, will put children first, ensuring they receive the integrated Early Help they need, as soon as it is required. In this model, as partner and Council services are increasingly having to focus on families with higher levels of need, an integrated offer will be developed with other community partners taking an increasing role in meeting the more common and less acute needs. The new strategy will enable us to respond to the challenges of reduced public funding and increased demand by more effectively aligning Council resources with those of partners. This will support the longer-term financial sustainability of the Council and partners, as well as improving outcomes for children.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes the draft Early Help Strategy.

**Mr David Hodge, Leader of the Council
27 February 2018**