

**CABINET – 26 June 2018**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**Members Questions**

**Question (1) Chris Botten (Caterham Hill):**

The Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, has a legal duty to promote and protect the rights of all children in England with a particular focus on children and young people who are in or leaving care, living away from home or receiving social care services.

Will the Cabinet Member invite the Children's Commissioner to Surrey to see for herself the plan to improve Children's Services and work with her to insure that the voice of children is always heard during this process?

**draft Reply:**

We would be delighted to welcome Anne Longfield to Surrey. Dave Hill, Executive Director, and I will contact her to invite her to meet with us and our children, to hear about our plans to transform services so that we provide the best support to children and families.

**Mrs Clare Curran**  
**Cabinet Member for Children**  
**26 June 2018**

**Question (2) Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):**

The letter from the Home Office to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 18 June 2018 regarding the interaction with the police and Home Office prior to the Parsons Green bombing incident included the following recommendation for Surrey County Council:

“All social care staff and managers should fully understand their role in relation to the Prevent statutory duty (under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015) the purpose and remit of Channel, and the need for full support and involvement at Channel Panels. Training should include the signs of safety radicalisation, issues around UASC, and should increase confidence to make constructive challenge at Panels.”

How many social care staff and managers have received the recommended training to date and if not all, what is the timetable for completing this training for all social care staff and managers?

**Reply:**

This specific recommendation relates to the previous lack of attendance of key professionals, such as social workers at the Channel Panel. The lack of attendance had an impact on the level of information sharing and decision making.

- We now have Adult Social Care (Head of Adult Safeguarding) and Children's Services (Principal Lead Social Worker from the MASH) as standing members and the Channel Panel is chaired by the Head of MASH. In addition, the social workers who are working with the children or adults discussed at the Channel Panel also attend on a case by case basis. As such, there is now support and involvement of social workers at Channel Panels.
- In Children's Services we have delivered the Home Office WRAP training (Workshop to Raise the Awareness of Prevent) to 120 managers. They have now received HO accreditation to enable them to deliver the training to their respective teams. The roll out of the training will be completed within the next 2 months.
- A tiered training approach is also being introduced that is proportionate to the roles and responsibilities of all SCC staff. This will range from an e-learning package to WRAP training for newly appointed social workers (Adult and Children) to the enhanced Prevent training for senior social workers in the MASH who act as our Prevent co-ordinators for referrals.

**Mr David Hodge CBE**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**26 June 2018**

**Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):**

The Investment Board Annual Report published in today's Cabinet papers appear to report a net income of £5.4m (p30) to the end of 2017/18 and a net investment income of just under £5m (p31) expected for 18/19. What net investment income targets were in place for the years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?

**Reply:**

The Investment Strategy is one of a series of initiatives to improve the financial resilience of the Council in the longer term. The council and its property investment company, Halsey Garton Property, is developing a mixed and diversified portfolio in order to deliver income and manage risks.

Specific targets were not in place in the earlier stages of developing the portfolio since the rate of growth has been dependent upon a number of factors; including the right opportunities being available on the market and our ability to secure investments at the "right" price in competition with other purchasers.

A net income of £5.4m has been delivered since the strategy commenced and this is growing to achieve £5m (on a per annum basis) for 2018/19. This compares to a target in the MTFP for 2018/19 of £4.0m

**Mr David Hodge CBE**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**26 June 2018**

**Question (4) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):**

The Part One Investment Board Annual Report summarises the financial contribution the Investment Board makes to Surrey County Council but provides no details of the social benefit to Surrey residents or the environmental benefit of these property acquisitions. Please set out what, if any, community benefit has been delivered through the County Council's property investment strategy. Please also confirm how much has been invested in these property assets to improve their energy efficiency and the percentage return on investment that this has delivered over the last year.

**Reply:**

The Investment Strategy is one of a series of initiatives to improve the financial resilience of the Council in the longer term. The council and its property investment company, Halsey Garton Property (HGP), is developing a mixed and diversified portfolio in order to deliver income and manage risks.

The net income delivered by the strategy will be used to support spending on council services.

The investment properties are let to tenants on full repairing and insuring leases and it is the responsibility of the tenant to comply with their obligations. As described in the Responsible Investment Policy, as landlord SCC and HGP, will ensure that any refurbishment or redevelopment required will be undertaken to achieve the required levels of Energy Performance Certificate scores to remain effective investment assets.

**Mr David Hodge CBE**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**26 June 2018**

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