

# Children's, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee

13 December 2019

## Cabinet Member Update: Julie Iles, Cabinet Member for All Age Learning



### Purpose of the Item:

To share details of the Cabinet Member's priority areas of work including any strategy and policy developments and provide an overview of the budget position and performance of services within the portfolio.

### Introduction:

1. This report provides a brief update on the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning's priority areas of work including a high level summary of the budget position and an update on the development of transformation projects within the Cabinet Member's portfolio.
2. The Select Committee are asked to review the update and prepare questions accordingly.

### Key area of focus: Libraries Transformation

3. Following comprehensive consultation on the strategic principles for Surrey County Council's Library and Cultural Service in early 2019, a new strategy for Libraries and Cultural Services and a new model for library services has been developed which takes into account the views expressed in the consultation, detailed impact and community profile, including analysis of service use. The strategy was approved by cabinet at its meeting of 26 November.
4. To fully implement this strategy, initially a programme of co-design will take place at a local level with stakeholders including District and Borough Councils, other partners and local people.
5. This will identify the opportunities to modernise our library services in the places that they are delivered, and in line with the new library model. Co-design isn't just 'asking people what they want' – it is a deeper, longer and more iterative process of working together to design solutions or proposals. The specific proposals that will be developed through this process will then be, where necessary, consulted upon.
6. We want to make sure that any consultation we do is about proposals that the local community are familiar with, and have a stake in; in addition we want to build a coalition of interested and involved people who may become more involved and committed to community-led activities and ultimately, support our move to more community-led libraries. The co design process will commence in the New Year.

## Key area of focus: Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

7. The Surrey SEND System Partnership is currently working with families and services to build the foundations of a strong system: improve culture and behaviours and restore trust between all partners and with families, children and young people.

Some of the current activities includes:

8. **Providing more school places in the right locations**
  - Plans for over 800 special school places in mainstream and special schools in Surrey over the next four years.
9. **Preparing young people for adulthood**
  - Working with three Surrey Further Education settings to broaden what they offer to young people with SEND.
  - Developing more internships and supported apprentices with a range of partners.
  - Running a series of events to help families understand the opportunities available to young people and the plans to expand them.
10. **Managing the provider market**
  - Successfully negotiating with Specialist Independent providers to ensure that placements are value for money and improving children's outcomes.
11. **Travel Assistance**
  - A public consultation is underway to inform the development of a new Travel Assistance policy.
  - Improving our offer of Independent travel training for young people.

## Update on draft response to DfE consultation on home to school transport guidance

12. Surrey County Council responded to a recent Department for Education consultation on guidance for local authorities on home to school transport which closed on 31 October. The proposed guidance was intended to clarify statutory responsibilities and discretionary provision and included case examples to illustrate how both could apply in practice. The DfE were keen to stress that the law related to home to school transport had not changed. The Council welcomed the clarification, suggested areas where further examples would be helpful and raised some concerns about unintended consequences that could increase financial pressure on councils.
13. The proposed changes to the guidance do not impact on the current policy proposals for home to school travel and transport that the Council is consulting on which closes on 15 December 2019. The outcome of the DfE consultation is due to be made public early in 2020.

## Key area of focus: Education

### Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and Coordinated Schemes for September 2021 - Consultation

14. The local authority must consult each year on any changes it wishes to make to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools. As the responsible Cabinet

member, I have authorised the Service Manager for Admissions & Transport to consult on the following proposed changes for 2021 admission:

- to give priority for children of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years and/or the member of staff has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage,
- to reduce the published admission number for Reception at Worplesdon Primary School from 60 to 57,
- to remove 12 schools from the list of schools that will be **excluded** when assessing each child's nearest school.

15. Consultation will run until Wednesday 11 December and after that date, responses will be collated and presented to Cabinet on 28 January 2020 whom will decide whether to proceed with the proposed changes as well as deciding on the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for which no changes are proposed. Cabinet's decision will then be ratified by the full County Council on 4 February 2020. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 will be placed on Surrey's website at: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

### **Surrey Schools & Early Years Funding 2020-21**

16. A report setting out the recommended funding formula for Surrey schools in 2020/21 and also proposing the principles to be adopted in the funding of early years in 2020/21 will be considered by Cabinet on 17 December 2019. The county council has engaged and consulted with the Surrey Schools Forum on these proposals.

### **Surrey Virtual Schools Governing Board**

17. In Surrey the Virtual School officially moved to the Corporate Parenting Division following a major re-structure in May 2019. The Governing Body was made aware of the concerns about the performance of the Virtual School following an Ofsted inspection in February 2018. I can report that at the last meeting held on 15 November 2019 it was clear that improvements were being progressed and the educational attainment for children in care had improved.

### **Surrey Schools- Key Stage Performance Data**

18. An update on Key Stage performance data from Surrey schools has been included within my 10 December 2019 full council report.

<b>Key area of focus: Adult Learning</b>
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### **Surrey Adult Learning GCSE English and Maths Awards Ceremony - 18 November 2019**

19. Over 100 Surrey Adult Learning (SAL) learners who studied for and passed their GCSEs at the SAL Camberley, Guildford, Molesey, Farnham and Woking centres during 2018-19 were reunited at the Surrey History Centre on the evening of Monday 18 November to celebrate their success. I attended this ceremony to present students with their certificates along with Liz Mills.
20. The GCSE English and Maths results this year were impressive and clearly demonstrated the hard work and dedication of the learners, tutors and curriculum team throughout last year. This continues to be one of the programme's key strengths. The overall GCSE achievement rates in

2018/19 were 89.6% which is 6% higher than the current national benchmark in our sector. Our high grades were 13.8% higher than other providers in our sector. These excellent results are particularly notable in the context of our learners completing their GCSE course in just 9 months.

21. Learners' commitment to their studies demonstrates how much it means for them to have been given another opportunity in life to achieve these qualifications. Some learners have now progressed at work, others onto Higher Education courses and apprenticeships and all agreed they were now more confident in using English and maths on a daily basis.

#### **Budget Update**

22. As per the Period 6 monitoring (September) the projected outturn position for Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture is an overspend of £8.2m including £3m of unallocated directorate wide savings. Of this, All-Age Learning outturn for 19/20 is an overspend of £3.3m. The main variances resulting in that projection are as follows;
  - Transport (£3.5m forecast overspend) increased number of journeys, cost containment plans are being developed to manage moving forward,
  - Social Care Education Placements (£1.4m forecast overspend) current commitments are over budgeted level and not expected to reduce in year,
  - SEN teams (£0.7m forecast overspend) due to the use of Locums workers and their additional costs.
23. These are offset by mitigating underspends within Libraries, Registration services, Commercial Services and staffing vacancies which total £2.3m.
24. Specific savings in 19/20 for All-Age Learning is £2.2m. At period 6 £2.4m of savings were forecast to be delivered. The additional savings are being generated through the review of cultural services. This will be factored in to the medium term financial strategy.

#### **Conclusions:**

25. A vast amount of work is being undertaken within the Cabinet Member portfolio to support and deliver ambitions within the Community Vision 2030.

#### **Recommendations:**

- The Select Committee reviews the information contained in this update and offers feedback to the Cabinet Member.
- The Select Committee considers where it may add value to the Cabinet Member's work through scrutiny and scopes topics as required.

#### **Next steps:**

The Cabinet Member to return with a further update at the next formal meeting of the Committee.

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