

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 23 JULY 2013

REPORT OF: MRS MARY ANGELL, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

SUBJECT: CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES DIRECTORATE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 13



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Children Schools and Families Directorate Annual Report (Annex 1) summarises the key achievements and progress made over the last year.

Previous reports have covered a 12 month period from September to August. This report is being published to cover the period April 2012 to March 2013, realigning reporting with the financial year.

The report is themed under the four areas of priority, which are set out in the directorate's children and young people's strategy 2012-17: prevention, protection, participation and potential.

The report demonstrates how the directorate is working towards the vision that 'Every child and young person will be safe, healthy, creative, and have the personal confidence, skills and opportunities to contribute and achieve more than they thought possible'.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet note the progress that has been made in the Children Schools and Families Directorate and our achievements over the last year.
2. Cabinet approves the publication of the Children Schools and Families Directorate annual report on the Surrey County Council website and s-net.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The publication of the Children Schools and Families Directorate annual report will demonstrate how the directorate is providing value for money for Surrey residents. It will show how the directorate has performed over the last year, and what has been achieved.

DETAILS:

1. The Children, Schools and Families Directorate evidences a year of continual improvement and success. We met the financial challenge set by government, realising this year's savings targets – a real achievement with ever increasing demand for our services.
2. Success includes the launch of two major financial schemes to support our looked after children, and our restorative justice approach, which is leading the way nationally. We are continuing to reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training.
3. The council has also continued to make significant investment in school places and school improvement, the effects of which will be realised over the next five years. We want every child in Surrey to have a place at a good school that supports them to reach their full potential.
4. There is still much to do. We're aiming for a 'whole systems' approach for children, young people and their families in Surrey, working together with partners to provide integrated health, social care and education services, focusing on early help, children with disabilities and family support. As a result, we will realise efficiencies and better outcomes for children.
5. To deliver our vision, we have a children and young people's strategy 2012-2017 that focuses on our four key priorities, which we will deliver with our partners through three plans, a public value programme, a family support programme and the development of our new Surrey Children and Young People's Partnership.

The three plans are:

- Health, wellbeing and safeguarding plan
- Education achievement plan
- Employability plan.

6. The annual report is attached as Appendix 1 and details the progress we have made over the last year focusing on key achievements.

CONSULTATION:

7. The annual report has been developed with input from managers across the directorate and in discussion with Cabinet Members.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

8. It is not expected that publication of the annual report would cause any financial risk, reputational risk or service delivery risk.

Financial and value for money implications

9. There are no financial implications in publishing the annual report. However, it is intended to demonstrate how the directorate is improving service performance whilst making its required savings. See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of our 2012/13 financial position.

Section 151 officer commentary

10. The directorate achieved its financial savings target in 2012/13 and overall spend remained within the allocated budget.

Legal implications – monitoring officer

11. The annual report details how the Children, Schools and Families Directorate meets its statutory requirements. We are also working to respond to new government policy and legislation that will have an impact on services and children, young people and families in Surrey. The directorate will continue to work to meet current and future legislative requirements.

Equalities and diversity

12. A central part of the work of the directorate is to narrow the gap in outcomes between the majority of children and young people in Surrey and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. The annual report details work that the Children, Schools and Families Directorate has undertaken to improve the outcomes for protected groups.
13. There is no requirement for an equalities impact assessment (EIA) for the annual report as it does not propose any new policy, function or service changes.

Other implications:

14. The annual report outlines the work the directorate is doing to support looked after children and to make children and young people in Surrey safe. It also identifies actions that have been undertaken to improve both the physical and mental health of children and young people in Surrey.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

15. Following Cabinet approval, the annual report will be published on the directorate's s-net pages and on the Surrey County Council website.
16. The annual report will be circulated to directorate staff via email/staff bulletins.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Strategic Director, Service managers across the Children, Schools and Families Directorate, Section 151 Finance Officer, Legal Services.

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Children Schools and Families Directorate Annual Report 2012-13.

Sources/background papers:

None

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