

Children & Education Select Committee – Forward Work Programme 2013/14

31 July 2013: Employability

- How prepared is Surrey for the raising of the participation age in Summer 2013?
- How is Surrey helping combat barriers to education or work?
- How is Surrey aligning the aspirations of young people, with employment and learning opportunities?
- What provision and support does Surrey offer young people from vulnerable groups – such as Care Leavers, Young Offenders and those with Special Educational Needs?

Why scrutinise this area?

- The Education and Skills Act 2008 places a duty on Local Authorities to raise the participation age to 17 in summer 2013 and then 18 in 2015.
- Reducing the number of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people is a corporate priority for the Council.

19 September 2013: Early help and prevention

- How is Surrey improving early help and prevention initiatives?
 - To include the work of the Youth Support Service.
- What impact is the Supporting Families scheme having in Surrey?

Why scrutinise this area?

- The Troubled Families Programme (known in Surrey as Supporting Families) is a key Government initiative.
- Improving early help and prevention services is a key priority of the Council's Children's and Young People Plan.

28 November 2013: Safeguarding and Child Protection

- How is Surrey and partners working to safeguard children?
 - To include the Surrey Safeguarding Board Annual Report
- What role do Surrey schools play in safeguarding children?
- How is social worker recruitment impacting on effective child protection?

Why scrutinise this area?

- In accordance with the Children Act (1989 and 2004), local authorities retain the lead role for safeguarding children in their area.
- The recruitment and retention of competent social workers is recognised that as critical to ensuring the quality of services delivered to vulnerable children. However, there remain significant challenges around the recruitment and retention of social workers and the increase in demand for services is causing pressure within the system.

27 January 2014: Reducing the Attainment Gap in Surrey (TBC)

- How are early years informing the aspirations of young people?
- How can the attainment gap in Surrey (5+ A*-C including English and Mathematics) be improved?
- How is the School Improvement Programme helping to narrow the gap?
- How different schools using pupil premium and the impact that is having on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils?

Why scrutinise this area?

- During 2012/13 the Education Select Committee identified that the attainment gap in Surrey was larger than many comparative authorities.
- Investing in support to schools to further improve the attainment of pupils, especially those from vulnerable groups is a priority of the Council's Children and Young People Plan.

27 March 2014: Looked After Children in Surrey

- How is Surrey positively impacting upon outcomes for Looked After Children?
 - To include the role and work of the Corporate Parenting Board
- How is Surrey working to improve placement stability?

Why scrutinise this area?

- Surrey County Council has a legal duty to act as a 'corporate parent' for every child and young person who is looked after.
- Improving outcomes for vulnerable young people is a priority for the County Council.

14 May 2014: Joined up support for children with disabilities and complex needs

- How is Surrey joining up support for children with disabilities?
- How prepared is Surrey to meet new legislation in this area – for example the requirement to provide and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)?
- How is Surrey's role as the SEN pathfinder for the SE7 informing the transition to a single assessment arrangement?

Why scrutinise this area?

- The Children and Families Bill places a duty on services involved in supporting children and young people with SEN to cooperate with each other and in particular requires local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to make arrangements for joint commissioning.

Informal meetings or workshops – dates to be confirmed

Public Value Programme – The Public Value Programme is an overarching review of how services within the Children, Schools and Families Directorate are delivered. It may be useful to receive an update on the delivery of the programme as a whole in a workshop session.

School Place Planning – For the Committee to receive a training session in school place planning and agree how they would like to receive updates in this area going forward.

Meeting with the Secretary of State for Education – Michael Gove has agreed to meet with the Committee on an informal basis within the next year.

Budget workshops: 2 budget workshops (one in Oct/Nov, one in Jan/Feb) will be organised so that the Committee is able to share its views with regards to budget setting for 2014/15.

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