

ANNEX 7 – Written submission on family centres from Matt Ansell, SCC Director for Family Resilience and Safeguarding, dated 15 July 2022

Response re CFLLC Adult Learning and Skills provision in Surrey task and finish group

Family Centres

June 2022

On 3 March 2022, Surrey County Council's Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee established a task and finish group, which I am chairing, to inquire into adult learning and skills provision in Surrey in order to identify how it could be improved to support the economic and social needs of our residents and the delivery of relevant climate commitments.

Family Centres in Surrey support families with children 0 – 11 years who have been identified as needing a multi-agency co-ordinated offer of support for the whole family. An early help assessment is completed to identify the specific needs of children, young people and their families. This may include for example support with preparing for or accessing employment and/or improving communication and basic skills.

Families are signposted or supported to access courses for Maths or English as well as English as an additional language. These are offered by local colleges for example Brooklands and East Surrey College, Surrey Adult Learning, Surrey Lifelong Learning, Surrey ethnic minority Forum in Tadworth and Elmbridge Can for refugees.

Surrey Adult Learning's Family Learning team offer a broad range of free workshops and short courses including parenting skills, managing child's anxiety, building children's self-esteem and resilience, understanding child behaviour, healthy eating/cookery, English as an additional language and maths. Courses are designed to develop the knowledge and skills of the parent, grandparent or carer so they can be more active in the support of their children's learning and development and to understand the impact of that support. The Surrey Adult Learning (SAL) Family Learning courses aim to raise the aspirations of and provide support to all families in need in line with local and national agendas as well as impacting positively on child attainment, behaviours, school attendance and increase family resilience. The impact of course attendance is measured through successful outcomes such as increased knowledge and skills, changed behaviours and improved confidence. At the end of their course learners can progress to other SAL courses including maths or English courses leading to qualifications, other training or work/volunteering.

Working with Family Centres is one of the methods that SAL uses to engage with priority families in higher needs wards. SAL's Family Learning courses are regularly promoted in the Family Centre bulletin by the Family Centre advisors. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic all courses were taught face to face but were moved to live online courses during lockdown. Currently courses remain predominantly online with a gradual return to face to face as partners including Family Centres can provide classroom space.

Other courses offered include WEA 'Managing stress and anxiety in children', 'Encouraging positive behaviour in SEND children' and they offer First aid for children and babies.

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