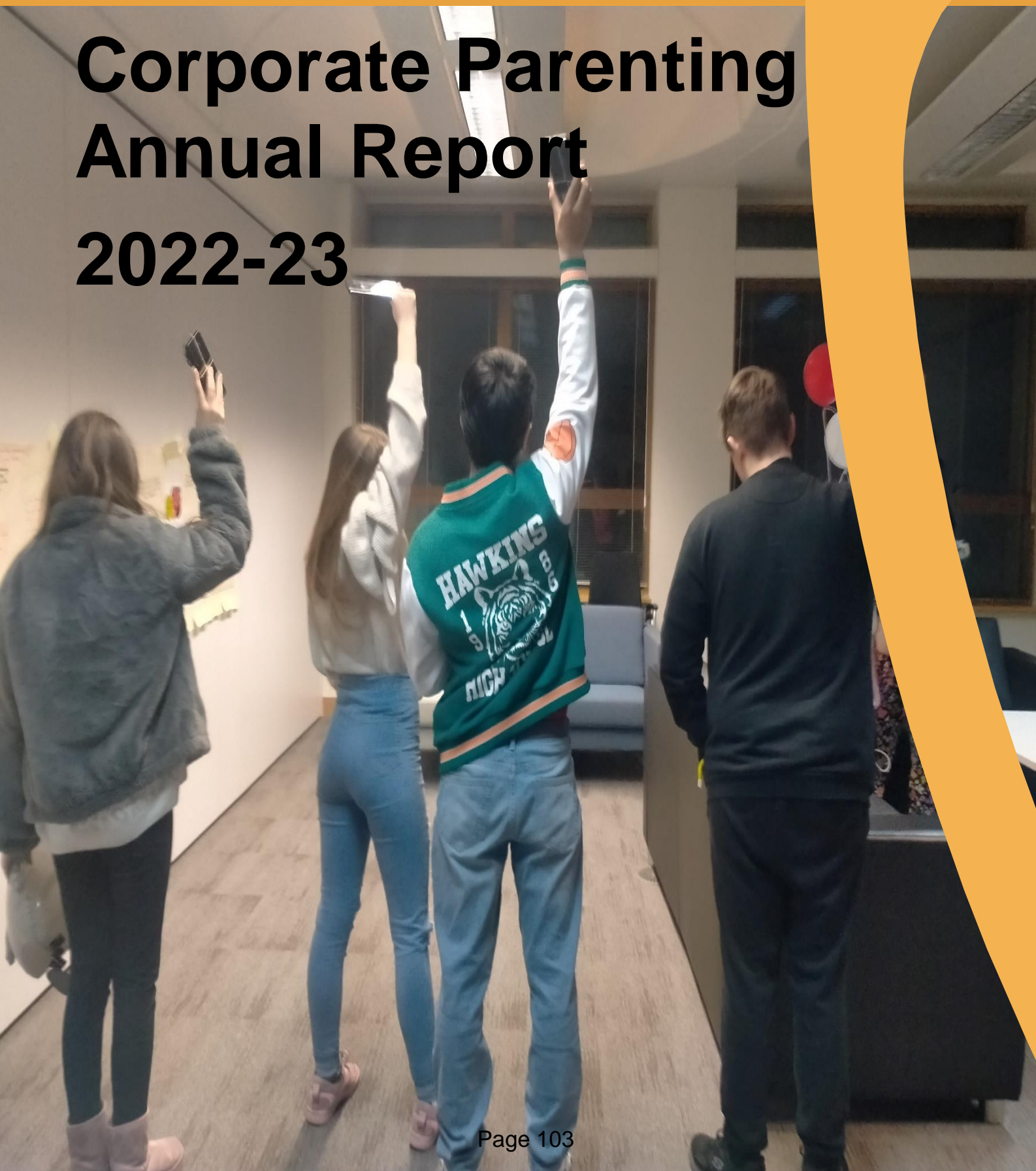




SURREY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-23



# Chair's foreword

As Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Surrey County Council, I am delighted to introduce the 2022/23 Annual Report of Surrey's Corporate Parenting Board, which provides a summary of the business of the Board in the last year and an overview of the key priorities for the following year.

In September 2022, I became the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, comprised of county councillors, council officers and foster carers, and we have since welcomed a number of other new members. As a Corporate Parenting Board, we share the ambition that all children and young people with care experience will be safe, healthy, actively involved in society, happy in the right home, have education, employment and training opportunities and sufficient plans made for their future. It is these priorities that shape the structure and focus of our Corporate Parenting Board meetings.

Listening to the lived experience and voice of children and young people, and using it to inform future decision making, is a key principle of the Corporate Parenting Board. In 2022/23 we reviewed our listening and engagement mechanisms, in conjunction with the User Voice and Participation Team, and have agreed to hold more face-to-face engagement events in 2023/24. We are grateful to all the young people whom have shared their lived experiences through conversations with the Board.

In 2022 the Board agreed that Surrey County Council should join the Care Leaver Covenant, a national inclusion programme that supports care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently with opportunities. As a Lead Ambassador for the Covenant, I will collaborate with colleagues across the council on behalf of the Board to promote corporate parenting principles and develop opportunities for care leavers.

The Board has this year championed a universal leisure offer, which in partnership with eleven district and borough councils has enabled free gym membership and swimming to all looked after children, care leavers and a 50% discount for foster carers across Surrey. In 2023 we will extend this offer to care leavers living outside of Surrey. This will be funded by Surrey's Celebration Fund – a scheme led by councillors to recognise and reward achievements of care-experienced children and young people.

I am proud to have witnessed first-hand the progress made this year towards achieving excellence in our services for looked after children and care leavers. I would like to thank everyone involved in the Board, and in our wider corporate parenting work, for their ongoing dedication and commitment to Surrey's children and young people. Let's see what more we can achieve together in 2023.



Cllr. Sinead Mooney

**Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board**

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# 1. SURREY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

## 1.1 Purpose

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) provides robust assurance of the whole corporate parenting system, ensuring Surrey is the very best corporate parent to its children; and that all looked after children and care leavers can achieve their full potential.

The Board does this by putting the voice of children and service users at the centre of everything it does. Members of the Board inquire, set ambition, champion and challenge our collective care of looked after children and care leavers. Surrey's CPB is ambitious, forward thinking and informed by experts, practitioners, children and carers.

The CPB ensures that Surrey County Council (SCC) and its partner agencies uphold the highest corporate parenting principles. The foundations of our work across our system are the **Corporate Parenting Strategy**, the **Sufficiency Strategy** and our **Looked after Children and Care Leavers Participation Strategy**, which sets out our commitments to looked after children and care leavers about how we will care for and support them.

The CPB may inquire into any service for looked after children or that contributes to outcomes for looked after children and care leavers across the system including social care, health, education, leisure, policing, housing and transport. The CPB will respond to specific issues, blockages and challenges raised by the Corporate Parenting Operational Group (CPOG) or any other stakeholders as needed.

## 1.2 Membership

The Board has [Cross Party Membership](#) and is chaired by the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families. Membership of the Board changed in 2022, with new county councillors and officers joining.

Name	Role
Cllr Sinead Mooney	Chairperson, Cabinet Lead for Children & Families
Cllr Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Education & Learning
Cllr Maureen Attewell	Member
Cllr Rebecca Paul	Member
Cllr Jonathon Essex	Member
Cllr Steve Bax	Member
Cllr Catherine Powell	Member
Cllr Fiona White	Member
Cllr John Robini	Member
Cllr Jeremy Webster	Member
Jane Porter	Chair of Foster Carer Executive
Cindy Morris	Care Experienced Foster Carer

Linda Grover	Foster Carer
Joanna Killian	CEO
Rachael Wardell	Executive Director
Tina Benjamin	Director – Corporate Parenting
Anwen Foy	Headteacher and Assistant Director of the Virtual School
Jo Rabbitte	Assistant Director – Children’s Resources
Sam Reynolds	Service Manager, Customer Services and UVP
Lisa Andrews	Public Health Principal

### 1.3 Relationship with CPOG

The Corporate Parenting Operational Group (CPOG) meets six times per year and meetings shadow the themes of the CPB’s meetings. The role of CPOG is to take forward issues and decisions arising from the CPB which require the engagement of operational services in and outside the council. CPOG is accountable to the CPB and the Director of Children’s Services for the operational delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The group is also accountable to our children in care, care leavers and their carers. Unlike the CPB, CPOG has broad membership of officers from across the council, foster carer representatives and senior leads from key partner agencies including the NHS, Police, Fire & Rescue, and Surrey’s Integrated Care System, enabling direct multi agency working and collaboration.

### 1.4 Format of CPB meetings

A sequence of pre-meetings enables six annual Board meetings to run efficiently during a 12-month reporting period from April 2022 to March 2023 .

The table below demonstrates how Board meetings are scheduled.

Item	Deadline	Responsible Owner(s)	Purpose
<b>1. Forward Plan meeting</b>	8-wks before CPB	Chief of Staff, Lead Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM	Agree agenda, discuss report content & contributors
<b>2. Draft Report meeting</b>	3-wks before CPB	Chief of Staff, Lead Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM	Review draft reports, make recommendations & additional requests
<b>3. Pre-meet with CYP</b>	Evening before CPB	All Members of the CPB, looked after children & care leavers	Listen to the views of service users on the CPB theme
<b>4. CPB</b>	Every 2-months	CPB Members & small number of senior officers	Corporate Parenting Board meeting makes recommendations & monitors action-tracker

<b>5. CPOG meeting</b>	1-month following CPB	Multi-agency officer membership	Implement actions & recommendations from CPB
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## 1.5 CPB meetings held in 2022/23

A Board forward plan sets out the theme and dates for 6 CPB meetings during a 12-month period. See Annex 1 on for CPB forward plan 2023/24 (page 44).

**In 2022-23, 7 themed CPB meetings were held, including a special additional meeting to review annual reports**

CPB date	Theme	Reports
May 2022	Sufficiency, Permanence & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sufficiency report</li> <li>✓ Thresholds and outcomes</li> <li>✓ Fostering recruitment</li> <li>✓ CPB Annual Report 2022/23</li> </ul>
July 2022	Additional Meeting (annual reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fostering Annual Report 2022</li> <li>✓ Children's Homes Report 2022</li> <li>✓ No Wrong Door</li> <li>✓ IRO Annual Report 2022</li> <li>✓ IV Annual Report 2022</li> </ul>
August 2022	Leisure, Culture & Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rights and Entitlements</li> <li>✓ Enhanced Leisure Offer</li> <li>✓ Financial Independence</li> <li>✓ Adoption</li> <li>✓ Achieving Excellence Update</li> </ul>
September 2022	Education, Employment & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Surrey Virtual School Annual Report 2021/22</li> <li>✓ Post 16 report</li> <li>✓ Care Leavers and EET</li> <li>✓ SEND and Looked After Children</li> </ul>
17 November 2022	Health, Wellbeing & CAMHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Health Report of Looked After Children and Care Leavers</li> <li>✓ Hope Service Report</li> <li>✓ Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH)</li> </ul>
January 2023	Safeguarding of Looked After Children and care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Exploitation and Missing</li> <li>✓ Contextual Safeguarding</li> <li>✓ Suicide Prevention and Mental Health</li> <li>✓ Achieving Excellence Update</li> </ul>
March 2023	Preparation for Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Care Leaver Report</li> <li>✓ Participation of CYP within the Board</li> </ul>

The CPB will scrutinise thematic reports from a range of services, such as education, health, leaving care service, adoption and fostering services. The Board has several standard agenda items including a themed item on views of children and young people (CYP).

## CPB standard agenda items:

Standard Item	Purpose	Role
<b>Views of CYP on the CPB theme</b>	To understand what is & what is not working well in relation to themes. To listen to the recommendations and suggestions for service development from CYP with care experience	Participation Officer
<b>Performance Report</b>	To understand current data & trends in relation to children looked after & care leavers	Strategic Analyst
<b>*Corporate Parenting Director's Update</b>	Provide regular updates on key areas of Corporate Parenting across the county. Report provides a summary of the Alerts and Escalations raised on behalf of children by the Independent Reviewing Service.	Director of Corporate Parenting
<b>Children's Social Care Transformation Update</b>	To provide information & awareness of the various transformation projects & improvement activity currently underway across Surrey's children's services.	Head of Projects and Programmes
<b>**CPB Action Tracker</b>	To provide a status update on CPB actions.	Corporate Parenting Project Manager

\*The Director's Update provides assurance to members by providing updates on serious incidence and reporting on vulnerable groups of CYP, including:

- Missing and exploited
- Young people in secure hospitals
- Number of children in secure accommodation Section 25
- Young people looked after in custody
- Missing and exploited children
- The number of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) alerts are reported, included the reason and resolution of the alert
- UASC
- Capital programme
- Status of CYP living in unregulated placements

\*\*An action tracker monitors progress against actions and decisions of the Board, an update is presented at each CPB.

## 2. OUR VISION AND VALUES

### 2.1 Corporate Parenting Vision

**To be the best corporate parents we can be, working together to provide children and young people in our care with happy and healthy childhoods, helping them reach and exceed their potential and aspirations, and supporting them into successful adulthood.**

## 2.2 The values we bring to help us realise our vision

- We must be the strongest champions of and advocates for all our looked after children and care leavers.
- We should have positive regard for all looked after children and care leavers and make sure that all are nurtured, feel loved and supported.
- Looked after children and care leavers are 'our' children and young people and we must have strong ambitions and aim high for all.
- All our young people are individuals and unique and we must parent each child as such.
- We must build trusting relationships with our children and young people so they feel able to give us their views and can talk to us about their wishes and feelings, their anxieties and hopes.
- We must listen to our children and young people and take account of their views on all matters which affect them.
- We must be resilient and persistent parents with an uncompromising approach to doing the best for our children and young people and a willingness to 'go the extra mile'.
- We want to continuously improve as corporate parents and continuously improve outcomes for our young people.

## 2.3 Pledge Promises



The work of the CPB is underpinned by the Seven **Corporate Parenting Principles** that are enshrined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 below.

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.
2. To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.
4. To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.
6. For children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.



## 2.4 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2023

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our vision for CYP looked after by the council, or formerly in care, and the values that inform the way we meet our corporate parenting responsibilities. Drawing on the requirements of the [Social Work Act 2017](#) and the seven corporate parenting principles, it sets out our priorities and the actions we take to ensure that no child looked after by the council is 'left behind'. The strategy was developed in consultation with children and young people, carers and partner agencies from across the council. A young person version is available.

A refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy will be launched in 2023.

## 2.5 Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025

Surrey County Council is legally required to consider sufficiency and the term is defined in the [Children Act 1989](#) which is the primary legislation in which all Children's Services operate. The act requires all local authorities to take steps that secure, as far as reasonably practicable, enough accommodation within the authority's area that meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after. Aside from being a statutory duty, we also know that working to secure the right amount of appropriate provision, in the right places and at the right time makes a massive difference to Surrey's looked after children and care leavers and is a key part of how we can enable them to achieve better outcomes.

Surrey has a five-year sufficiency strategy (2022-2025) which sets out five clear strategic ambitions to realise better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, these are:

Living in a family setting where possible

Surrey homes for Surrey children

A wide range of placements for diverse needs

Homes of the highest quality

Support to move to independence

## 2.6 Surrey Children's Homes

In 2023 a large capital programme will increase sufficiency through the development of three brand new specialist children's homes in Epsom, Walton Upon Thames and Dorking. There is an update on the capital programme in section 5.10 of this report (page 35).

Surrey County Council has one of the largest estates of in-house residential provision in the country. Each home is registered and subject to rigorous monitoring by Ofsted.

### Children's Homes Ofsted Outcomes 2022/23

Home Name	Date of Inspection	Overall Current Rating
1. Applewood	12 April 2022	Good
2. The Annex	17 February 2023	Good
3. Burbank	21 – 22 March 2023	Provisional judgement is <b>good</b> . Awaiting draft report
4. Extended Hope	29 – 30 November 2022	Good
5. Faircroft	28 March 2023	Awaiting feedback
6. Libertas	15 – 16 February 2023	Good

7. Ruth House	1 – 2 March 2023	Provisional judgement is <b>good</b> . Awaiting draft report
8. Treehouse	14 – 15 September 2022	<b>Inadequate</b> – compliances met 19 <sup>th</sup> of September 2022 – final report published – suspension of admissions formally agreed with Ofsted Jan 2023.
9. Woodlands	7 – 8 March 2023	<b>Good</b>
10. Epsom Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted
11. Walton Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted
12. Dorking Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted

## 2.7 Listening to Service Users



Listening to CYP is at the heart of the CPB and instrumental to assist members to understand the lived experiences of children and young people in our care. In 2022, the User Voice and Participation (UVP) team created a Microsoft Form based on a key CPB theme, relevant feedback from participation groups and targeted consultations/events from the previous 12-months are collated into an impactful report and presented to the Board. Presentations include videos, audio and quotes from young people that are framed around what is working well and what needs to be improved. We ask the question *‘if you had a magic wand, what would you change?’*. These presentations form part of the agenda pack and are the first item of discussion.

In addition to a written report, a virtual meeting with CYP was held in the evening prior to each CPB meeting in 2022. Evening meetings allowed CYP to return home from work, school or college. During the Covid-19 pandemic, CYP told us that they preferred this format of pre-meeting, but since the end of the pandemic we have seen online participation reduce. To ensure the Board continues to hear a breadth of CYP experiences in 2023, we will hold more face-to-face meetings with CYP and look to pilot, a care leaver co-chairing meetings with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People. We are excited to explore new and innovative methods of listening to and engaging with CYP in 2023/24.

In Summer 2022 we held our first Children’s Summer Extravaganza for children in our care and foster families. Following over 2-years of Covid restrictions it was a delight to see so many children and carers having fun. This event was attended by over 100 looked after children and foster carers own children. The event had giant inflatables, soft play, a sensory room and dozens of sporting games and activities. Given the success of the CPB Children’s Summer Event, we have agreed to run this on an annual basis and planning for a Summer 2023 event is well underway.



In 2023 we plan to hold more face-to-face consultation activities and events to ensure members of the CPB can engage and interact with children and carers in a fun and memorable way.

An event to celebrate Care leavers week will be facilitated in autumn 2023.

UVP have created an **action card database** with feedback from our looked after children, young people and care leavers. Action cards are raised by young people or CPB members to highlight an issue they would like to be resolved. There is a clear process for responding to action cards and CPOG is responsible for ensuring actions are resolved and practice is improved. Action cards are allocated to senior leaders and should be responded to within 2 months.

Below are two examples of action cards that have been implemented with the support of the CPB and CPOG.

**You Said:** As young people with care experience in Surrey, you wanted a young person friendly version of the 'Together and Apart Framework', so that you better understand what happens when coming into care.

**We Did:** We worked with CPOG to create an accessible document that you've said is clear and easy to understand. We created a YP friendly document of the Sibling Separation Policy.

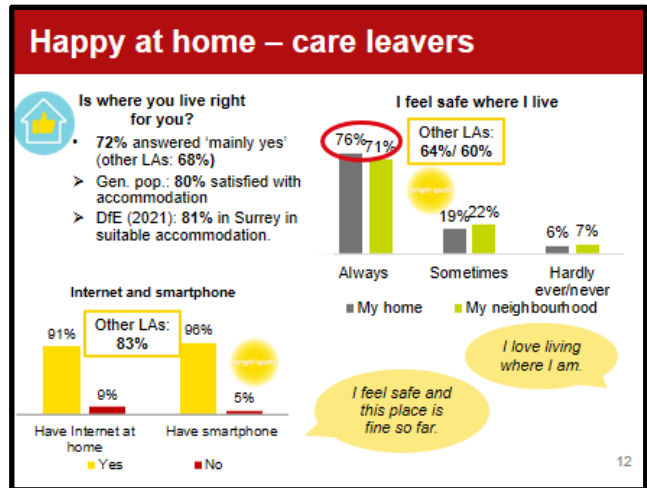
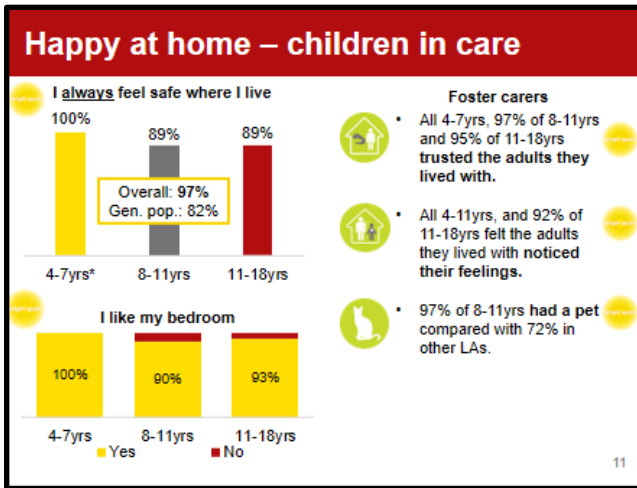
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**You Said:** As young people living in Surrey, we would like more opportunities to expand our independence and finance/budgeting skills in our foster homes, placements or at workshops before reaching adulthood so that we feel ready and supported to take steps to becoming independent when we turn 18.

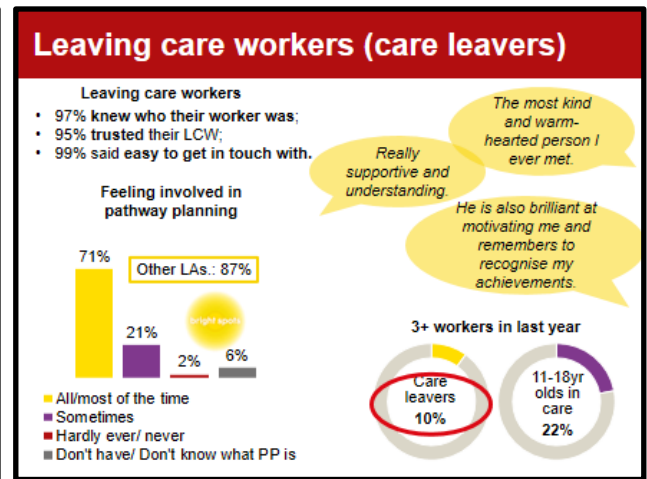
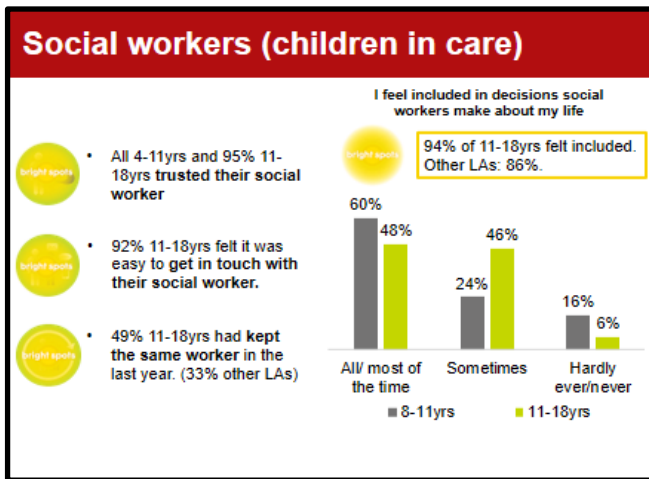
**We Did:** Children's Services in Surrey have developed the 'Surrey How Do I?' Workshops to teach you the skills you may need to live independently.

In 2022, two large surveys were commissioned to understand the views of Care Leavers: Coram Bright Spots 'Your Life Beyond Care' survey for care leavers and 'Your Life, Your Care' survey for looked after children. 180 Care leavers responded to the Your Life Beyond Care survey, this represents 23% of Surrey care leavers, with 63% male and 27% female. 11% were parents, pregnant or the partner of somebody who was pregnant and 19% of respondents reported having a long term illness/Disability.

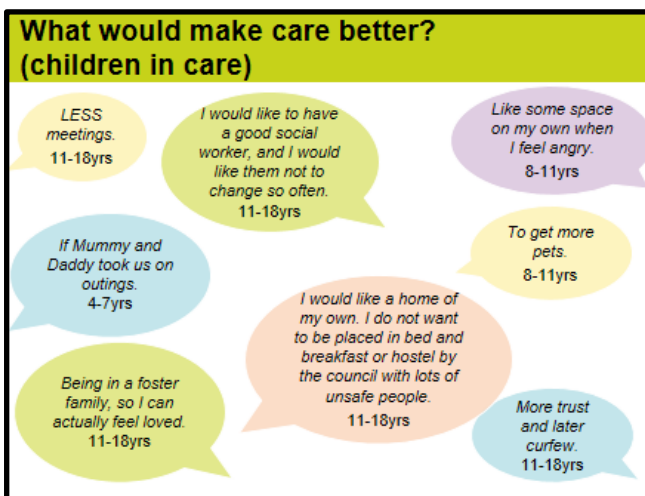
15% of Looked After Children responded to the Your Life survey, this is 128 children. With 51% male and 48% female, 1 child identified as "other". 76% of respondents identified as white and the majority of children (72%) were in Foster Care, 12% were in Kinship Placements, 7% in Semi-Independence and 4% in Residential Care. The survey identified areas of strength (Bright Spots) and areas for development. Below is a summary of Surrey's 'Bright Spots' relating to CYP who said they *'feel safe and happy in their home'*.



CYP were also 'satisfied with their social workers and personal advisors' and felt 'included in decision-making' about their care plan and pathway plan.

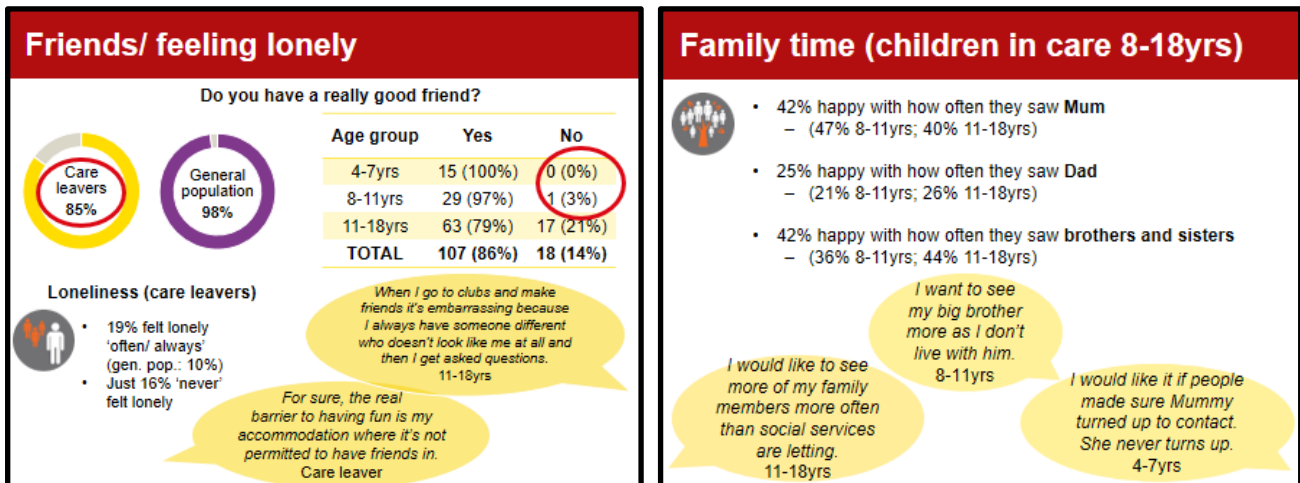


The tables below show quotes from CYP on 'what would make care and leaving care better'.



Key areas for improvement identified in the Coram Bright Spots survey include care leavers 'feeling lonely' and looked after children not having enough 'family time' with biological parents and siblings.

An action-plan to address areas identified for improvement is being developed for implementation in 2023. Below are some areas the service will address through an action-plan.



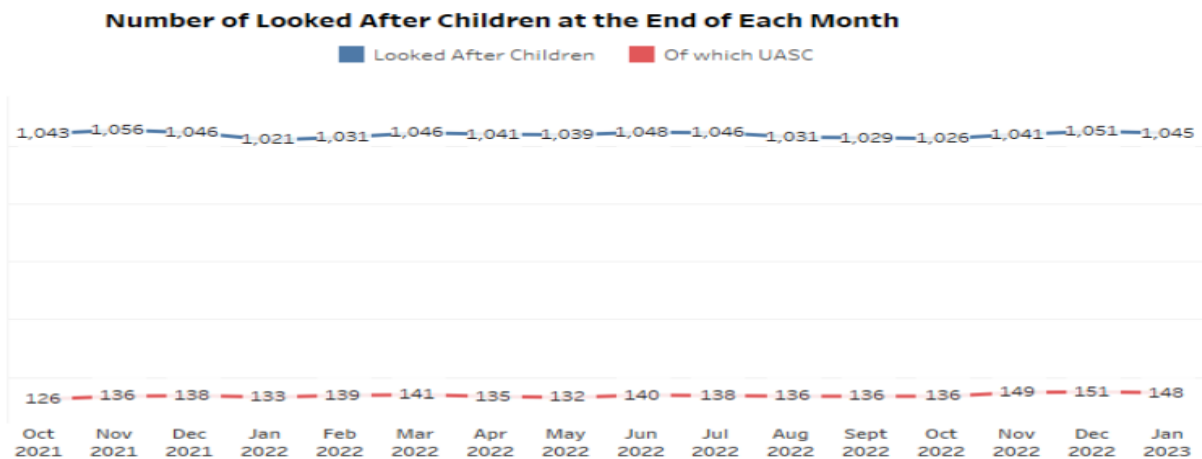
### 3. SURREY CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Data varies throughout this Annual Report 2022/23 because themed reports were presented to the CPB at different times throughout the year. All data in this section is accurate from January 2023.

#### Looked After Children data

This section provides a deeper context on Surrey looked after children and care leavers, it includes information on the profile of CYP and placement stability with comparative data for regional and national trends.

The number of children looked after as at the end of each month has remained relatively consistent over the last 16 months. There has been an upward trend in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) looked after in recent months.



The 148 unaccompanied asylum seeking children currently supported by Surrey County Council is 0.06% of the child population. The nationally-set target is for each local authority to support 0.07% of their child population as UASC. For Surrey, with a child population of 265,033, this would equate to 186 children. UASC account for 14% of the children currently looked after by Surrey.

The rate of looked after children per 10,000 population as at the end of November 2022 was 39.5. This remains below our statistical neighbour average of 46.2 and the region average of 56.0 looked after children per 10,000 population as at the end of March 2022.

	Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022
<b>Surrey</b>	33.0	31.0	31.0	34.0	34.0	36.0	37.0	37.0	38.0	40.0
<b>South East</b>	47.0	47.0	49.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	52.0	53.0	53.0	56.0
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	35.8	37.6	38.1	38.5	40.8	42.6	46.4	43.4	43.7	46.2
<b>England</b>	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	62.0	64.0	65.0	67.0	67.0	70.0
<b>East Sussex</b>	57.0	55.0	52.0	51.0	52.0	57.0	55.0	55.0	57.0	61.0
<b>Hampshire</b>	40.0	45.0	47.0	46.0	51.0	56.0	59.0	56.0	58.0	61.0
<b>Essex</b>	42.0	38.0	34.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	36.0
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	41.0	39.0	38.0	38.0	34.0	33.0	34.0	35.0	36.0	38.0

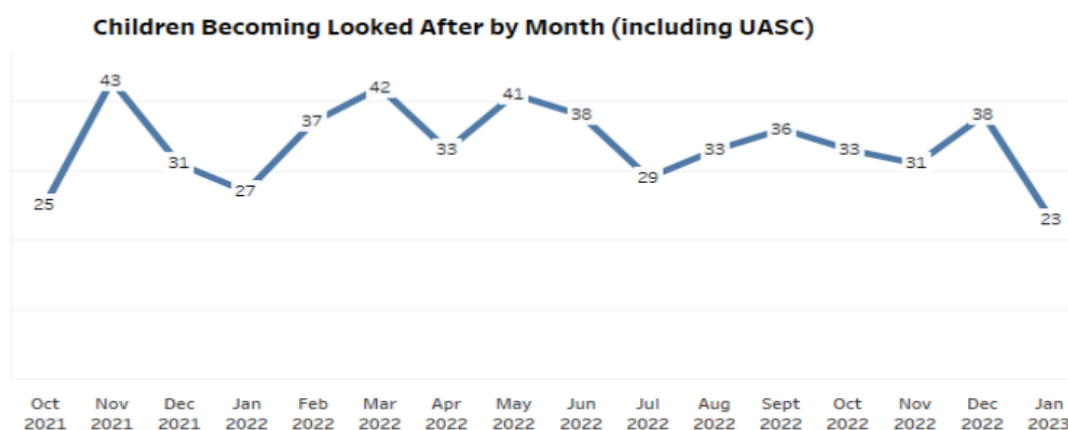
## Age Profile of Looked After Children

Surrey's age profile of looked after children is broadly in line with the latest national figures (below). Surrey has a slightly higher proportion of looked after children aged 10-15 years old and a lower proportion of looked after children aged 16-17 years old.

5% of children are aged under 1      14% are aged 1-4 years  
 18% are aged 5-9 years              39% are aged 10-15 years  
 25% are aged 16 and over

## The Number of Children Becoming Looked After

The number of children becoming looked after has remained consistent for the last 16 months.

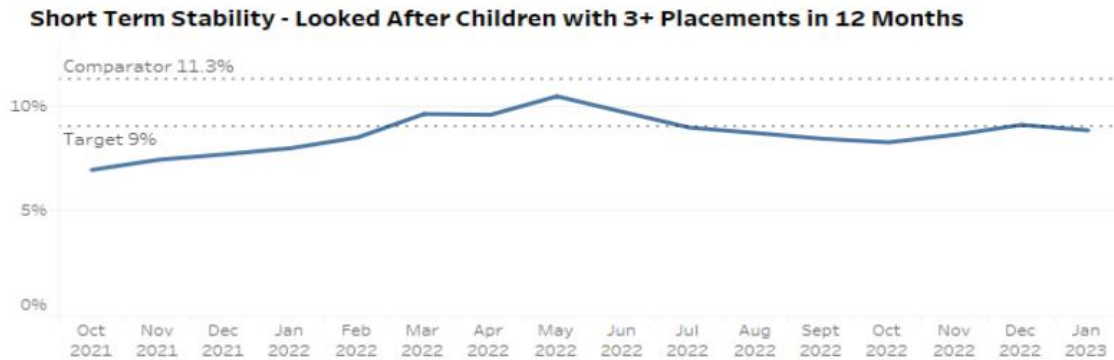


## Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Approximately 14% of Surrey's under 18 looked after population are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Approximately 35% of Surrey's care leaver population is asylum experienced with 99.94% of the population male and 0.06% female. Surrey has participated fully in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and has continued to accept new arrivals alongside young people that may present within Surrey not linked to the scheme. Surrey currently has 136 young people under the age of 18 and 307 18-plus asylum experienced care leavers whom Surrey is a corporate parent to.

## Distance From Home and Placement Sufficiency

### Placement Stability (including UASC)



The proportion of children who have had 3+ placements in the last 12 months has met the target of 9.0% in January 2023 after falling slightly short the previous month. **The long-term stability of placements has surpassed our target of 70% for the last 12 months.**

- ★ “I like where I live but I want to be at home with my family. I don't want to be where I am forever.” (looked after young person aged 15 years)

### Looked After Children Distance from Home

For current looked after children with a home and placement address recorded, 64% (569 children) have been placed within 20 miles of their home address, an increase when compared to the same period 12 months ago (62%). **We are making progress against our ambitious target of 80% of CYP living in county.** 16% (140 children) of looked after children are placed more than 50 miles from their home address.

### Placement Category

The table below shows placements by type of provision.

Placement Type	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Change
Fostering - Total	703 71%	669 64%	-34 -7%
Of which Internal	491 49%	458 44%	-33 -5%
Of which External	212 21%	211 20%	-1 -1%
Placed for Adoption	18 2%	24 2%	6 0%
Other Placements	273 27%	357 34%	84 +7%
<b>Total Placements</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>+56</b>

\*Other Placements account for 34% in March 2022, this includes Independent Living, Children's Homes and Residential Placements. Data for March 2023 was not available at time of writing.

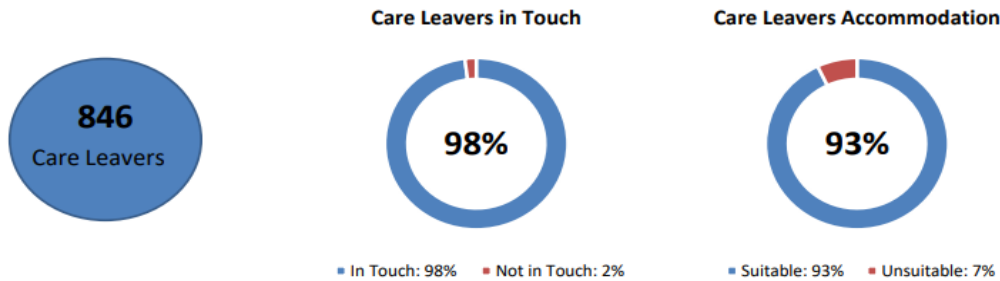
- ★ “Where I live is good because I feel very safe, and I love the foster carers who I live with, and I feel like I can talk to them whenever I feel I need to talk about something.” (looked after child)

## Looked After Children Leaving Care (including UASC)

Coupled with the increase in the number of children becoming looked after in recent months, a lower number of children leaving care has contributed to more children being looked after.

### Care Leaver Totals and main Placement Type

#### Care Leavers



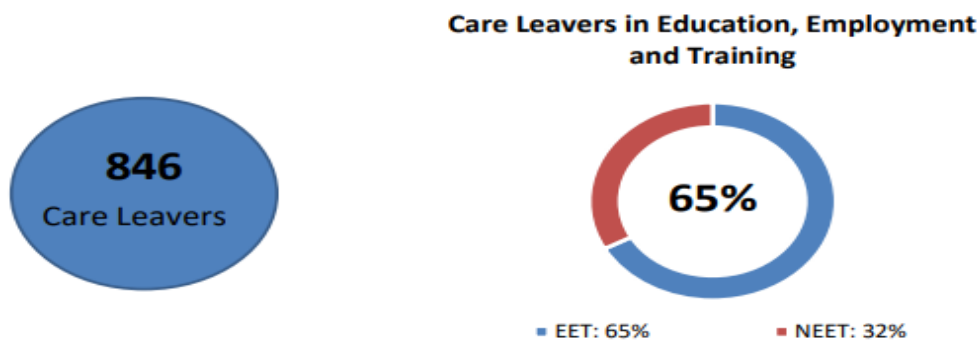
There are currently 846 care leavers supported by SCC; 829 (98%) are currently in touch and 786% (93%) are recorded as living in suitable accommodation.

The two largest groups of accommodation type are **semi-independent** accommodation for 36% of care leavers and **independent accommodation** (own tenancy) for 27% of care leavers.

★ *“I went from being in semi-independent with Moving On and having the support from them, to now having my own flat which I’ve been in for nearly 2 years.”(care leaver aged 21 years)*

Care Leaver in Education, Employment and Training (EET) and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET).

### Education, Employment and Training (EET) of Care Leavers



The reason that 32% of care leavers are NEET is due to reasons including illness and disability, parenting and pregnancy. There is a category called G5 ‘other category’ which includes 167 (20%) of NEET care leavers. A CPB NEET Task and Finish group was established in 2023 to understand the barriers and identify enablers to support this group into EET. In 2021/22 nine care leavers enrolled at university.

★ *“Education means everything to me, I finished college and worked for a couple of years and then realised what I want to do in life. I went back to education to study what I’m most passionate about.” (Care leaver aged 20 years)*



## 4. SPONSORED CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PROJECTS

Board members actively participate in a number of corporate parenting programmes and projects to promote and celebrate achievements of children and young people and to understand operational challenges faced by children & young people and their workers/carers.

The CPB sponsors specific activities and member-led projects including:

- The Celebration fund
- Link Member project
- Bicycle scheme
- Member visits
- Care leaver covenant
- Universal leisure offer / boxing offer
- Children’s summer event / care leavers week event

CPB projects are coordinated by the Corporate Parenting Project Manager in partnership with Members, the service and CYP.

### 4.1 Member Visits

Member visits provide opportunities for officers to further understand the role of members and for members to identify and explore wider system issues impacting on the care, support and experience of service users and officers. Visits provide evidence of child, carer, parent and practitioner insight and experience, and are used to inform discussions and shape assurance and decision-making that improves services and support for children. In 2021 member visits were stopped due to Covid-19 and we are excited to announce plans to relaunch this project in 2023 in partnership with the Select Committee. A calendar of member visits is being coordinated to reflect Select Committee and CPB themes and priorities, below are examples of member visits that are currently being considered for 2023/24.

Children’s Crisis Intensive Support Service (CCISS) & Hope Service	Understand mental health crisis support available in SCC.
Surrey Virtual School	To understand education for CLA placed in and out of SCC.
Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health (EWMH) commissioning and MindWorks.	Mental Health & Wellbeing service for CLA & care leavers.
C-SPA	The Children’s Single Point of Access is the umbrella term used to describe the front door to Children’s Services.
Quadrant Service visits x 4	Visit to front line teams across four quadrants.
Universal and Target Youth Offer	Visit to teams to understand the offers across SCC (universal and targeted).

### 4.2 Link Member Scheme

As part of ongoing quality assurance arrangements, councillors who are members of the CPB may visit Surrey children’s homes. These visits help members deepen their understanding of the experiences

of staff, carers and children, and the quality of practice children receive. They also enable staff, carers and children to raise good news stories and general concerns independent of the operational service. Board members often use their local connections to champion on behalf of homes, for example, one member coordinated with borough council colleagues and arranged for residents to receive free rugby training from a local coach.

### 4.3 Celebration Fund Panel

All councillors at SCC are committed to being good corporate parents and this means supporting CYP in care and leaving care to achieve their full potential. To help with this there is a small, discretionary fund where members make financial contributions, this fund supports looked after children and care leavers to:

- Pursue a hobby or interest
- Participate in a one off activity that will really benefit a child/young person's overall wellbeing
- Provide a child/young person with a piece of 'equipment' to support independence/achieve a goal and to engage in a sports activity
- Go on a local/international visit, trip, or excursion
- Celebrate personal achievements (no matter how small or large)

This year, 264 applications were submitted, and the Celebration Fund Panel agreed 206 awards to the total of £33,638.22. The June 2022 panel received 49 successful applications, the October 2022 panel received 84 successful applications and the February 2023 panel received 73 successful applications. The above figures include applications to the Surrey Bike Scheme (a total of 35 applications; 22 in October and 13 in February 2023).

#### Age breakdown of 264 applications to the Celebration Fund submitted in 2022/23

0 – 4 years	2
5 – 10 years	11
11 – 16 years	78
17+ years	173

#### FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

- ★ *“It has positively motivated me in my life to achieve my goals.”*
- ★ *“I am motivated to do more - improve my music making skills such as writing lyrics and rapping.”*

Of the 264 applications, 136 were in county and 128 out of county.

Members fund the Celebration Fund through member contributions and unspent member allocations. In 2022/23 the Celebration Fund received £19,028.60 funding from members.

#### FEEDBACK FROM KEYWORKERS

- ★ *“It is good to acknowledge the hard work of not only the child but their carers.”*
- ★ *“Very glad we have it in Surrey.”*

#### Funding received

Below is a breakdown of funding received by applicants.

Year	Member Contribution	Funding allocated from underspend	Total funding from Members
2020/21	£9,940	£34,209	£44,140
2021/22	£9,653	£10,000	£19,653
2022/23	£6,632	£12,396.60	£19,028.60

As indicated in the table below, the Celebration Fund is increasing in popularity and each year we receive more applications from social workers and personal advisors. Hundreds of Surrey CYP benefit each year and receive recognition for a personal achievement (no matter how big or small).

Year	Applications submitted	Applications Successful	Amount
2021/22	207	133	£17,564.91
2022/23	264	206	£33,638.22

### Key spending themes for 2022/23



The Celebration Fund Panel influences further provision. For example, a standard offer for computers, driving lessons, recycled furniture and bicycles has been agreed due to advocacy from members. In 2023 we plan to develop an out of county gym membership scheme for care leavers, funded by the Celebration Fund.

## 4.4 Boxing Offer

In 2022/23 the Celebration Fund received a large number of applications for boxing classes and membership. Active Surrey and Children’s Services secured funding from Sport England to launch a **boxing offer** for children and care leavers aged 12 – 25 years. Currently 10 applications have been received.



Learn new **skills**,  
make **friends** &  
have **fun**.

Try  
boxing!

**The Boxing Offer is for CYP aged 12 – 25 years living in and out of Surrey.**

- 3-months membership at any Boxing for England affiliated clubs, with a possible extension to 6-months.
- Purchase of gloves and wrap (for CYP that extend initial 3-month membership).



## 4.5 Bicycle Scheme for Looked After Children & Care Leavers


The Bike Scheme is now embedded into the corporate parenting service and local offer. Since the launch in September 2021 186 bikes with locks and helmets have been awarded totalling approximately £23,000 (this figure does change depending on placement moves). The Bike Scheme is funded by Active Surrey and Children’s Services, and it is helping many CYP to become healthy and active, and travel to school, college and work by bicycle which is saving money and the environment.

There are four age categories of funding and awards are calculated to fund approximately 75% of a new or refurbished bike with a lock and helmet. To encourage CYP to purchase refurbished bikes the amount of funding available is higher however, there are various challenges to CYP purchasing refurbished bikes including ‘attitude to second-hand goods’ and ‘supply issues’ experienced by some local bike projects.

**Surrey’s Bike Scheme**  
For those in care or care leavers

Are you a looked after child or care leaver (living in or outside Surrey)?  
You can get help to buy a bike!

- For ages 5-25
- See application form for [rules](#)
- Amount of funding you get depends on your age and if the bike is new or fully [refurbished](#)
- Includes money towards a [helmet](#)
- FREE [Bikeability](#) training to [improve](#) your road safety
- Speak to your Key Worker/Social Worker for more information, or email [celebration.fund@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:celebration.fund@surreycc.gov.uk)

“The bike is helpful, B feels happy to have his own bike. It is helping B to keep fit mentally and physically.”

Apply To apply

- We receive many applications for those YP who have come into the care system as a result of asylum applications.
- We receive many applications for younger children who have grown out of old bikes that were bought for them before the scheme started and in addition those moving from school to college who need a bike.
- In 2023/24 Active Surrey have donated a further £15,000 to the scheme.

## 4.6 Care Leaver Covenant

The [Care Leaver Covenant](#) is a national inclusion programme which seeks to create opportunities that support care leavers 16 - 25 to live independently. There has been significant activity across services in Surrey in consultation with care leavers to identify the key

areas of focus (Wish List) that Surrey's care leavers want us to prioritise. We have developed a broad action-plan with six key priorities:



1. Raising awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant
2. Increasing education, employment and training opportunities and support
3. Creating more opportunities for care leavers through [Social Value](#)
4. Developing more discounts to help care leavers financially
5. Having a Whole Local Authority approach and promoting [Corporate Parenting Board](#) responsibilities
6. Better health and wellbeing support and provision

**On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 SCC signed the CLC.** We have four lead ambassadors including, Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Lead for Children & Families, Rachael Wardell, Director for Children's Services and care-experienced ambassadors, Grace Mumford and Sameer Hussain who are apprentices with the UVP service.



Ambassadors Grace and Sameer had this to say about the CLC:

- ★ *"It's good that people higher up in Surrey are noticing there are things that need improving, it's really good that the Care Leaver Covenant is being recognised by senior management in Surrey", Grace (19).*
- ★ *"It's great that Surrey are signing up to the Care Leaver Covenant, it will provide care leavers with more benefits and opportunities", Sameer (24).*

Many CLC projects and activities are already well underway, one positive outcome includes pre-paid prescriptions for care leavers which was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and funded by ICG for care leavers living in county and Children's Services for those living out of county. This fantastic initiative was championed by designated health colleagues. See Annex 3. Pre-Paid Prescription Flyer (page 46)

## 4.7 Universal Leisure Offer

In 2022 a **leisure offer** was launched for CYP and foster carers living in Surrey. Children's Services and Active Surrey have worked in partnership with 11 borough councils and 6 leisure operators to agree a universal leisure offer. Surrey is one of few county councils to agree such an offer accessible across the county. The leisure offer was reviewed in January 2023, more information on access and impact of the offer is in section 6.3 Leisure, Culture & Life Skills (page 38).

In 2023 we hope to begin plans to develop an **out of county gym membership** for care leavers in partnership with Hussle.com, one of the UK’s largest private gym providers with the largest coverage across England.



- The Leisure Offer for looked after Children, Care Leavers & Foster Carers 2022 includes:
- ✓ Free gym membership
  - ✓ Swimming access at all times
  - ✓ All looked after children under 16 years are entitled to one free **adult** admission
  - ✓ Care leavers aged 18-25 with additional needs entitled to one free **adult** admission
  - ✓ Foster carers and their birth children (aged under 18 years) have a 50% concession on all leisure provision

## 5. Outcomes from Themed CPB meetings

The CPB held meetings under 6 key themes:

Theme
Preparation for Independence
Health & Wellbeing
Education, Employment & Training
Placements, Sufficiency, Permanence
Leisure, Culture & Life Skills
Safeguarding of Looked After Children and care leavers

### 5.1 PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE

In 2022 OFSTED highlighted positive comments in relation to the Virtual School’s wide-ranging work to support young people into appropriate learning or employment, and the helpful employment advice provided for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Since then, an external peer review conducted by the National Association of Virtual School Heads (NAVSH) has highlighted post 16 education, employment and training as a strength in the Virtual School’s work. The report also notes that *“It is helpful that the partnership working between the Post 16 and Post 18 Virtual School staff and the Personal Advisors and education partners is well established”*.

As of March 2023, there were 345 young people in the Virtual School’s Years 12 and 13 cohort (16–18-year-olds) of whom 67, or 19% were **not in education, employment or training (NEET)**. This is a reduction of 3.5% from the previous year. The Virtual School has developed new granular analysis of the NEET cohort and the primary reasons for the inactivity. This has allowed for targeted interventions to be developed, which started as part of the first year of the Post-16 Pupil Premium pilot, funded by the DfE. The overall NEET figure for Year 12 and 13 is likely to fluctuate during the year but has remained below 20% since the start of this academic year, compared to a relatively static 30% historically.

The Surrey Virtual School delivered a **DFE pilot project in 2022**, focusing on access to post-16 education, employment and training for young people, which is contributing to national research in this area. SVS has since been awarded grant funding for a second year of the project, which will focus on unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, who comprise 10% of the 16-18 NEET cohort and are more susceptible to disengagement and long-term worklessness, particularly following receipt of Leave to Remain status. A recent analysis by the Virtual School of young people who are NEET in Years 12 and 13 has highlighted that 96 of our young people (28% of the overall cohort) were new to care since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The pilot allowed for a coach to young person ratio of 1:8, compared to 1:100 for the wider Virtual School. Whilst this level of support was a luxury which would be impossible to achieve within current resources, it does demonstrate learning for SVS in relation to the nature of the support provided, and the impact of more targeted work than our standard approach can offer. The pilot has emphasised the importance of trusting relationships, (gentle) persistence, providing safety in the exploration of options and broadening horizons. It is these key findings on which we intend to build in the second year.

The Virtual School has agreed to fund the **Grand Mentors Scheme** for a further year, match funded by 'Volunteering Matters' and is working with the Grand Mentors Board to refresh the offer to better align it to the needs of our young people. 'Grand Mentors is a mature organisation with a proven track record and infrastructure around mentoring Care Leavers and other young people from vulnerable groups. In 2022, 16 referrals were successfully matched to a Grand Mentor and the following table indicates the impact of the scheme. Data from Grand Mentors also demonstrates that the input has significantly increased positive self-esteem and wellbeing of participants.

*I received a referral for a UASC who had hopes of one day studying Law.*

*I was fortunate enough that at the time I had a mentor who had trained and worked as a solicitor for many years and once I told him this, I could see the excitement in his face.*

*Shortly after, we arranged a match meeting for them and they just clicked.*

*They have met several times and together they have been looking at different universities, the qualifications required to get onto those courses and different areas of Law that may be of interest.*

*The mentor has kindly gifted him some old books of hers about the history and geography of the UK that she no longer reads.*

*Thanks to Grandmentors, this young man is able to receive specialised, one to one support in his area of interest that he would not have received otherwise. They are only 2 meetings in however I know that with the support and guidance of his mentor, he is destined for big things.*

There are a number of resources used to support young people in their understanding of **finance related issues**. The service has developed a guide which covers a wide range of areas including opening a bank account, how to set and manage a budget, income and employment, loans and overdrafts, accessing benefits, paying bills and managing debt, using credit cards, understanding insurance and credit checks. The service has referred young people to the Money House an accredited UK charity which delivers expert led financial education programmes. Sessions are focussed on young

people who are about to move into their own accommodation and have responsibility for managing a tenancy. Care leavers who have participated in the programme have found this very beneficial.

The [Local Offer for Care Leavers](#) was reviewed and a new Higher Education Support Package and Reference Guide for Surrey Care Leavers includes information on financial support, bursaries, accommodation and support from Surrey care leavers when entering higher education or university. Care leavers living within and outside of Surrey continued to benefit from Council Tax exemptions in place which extended to all Surrey Districts and Boroughs from 1 April 2022. The scheme was reviewed in 2022 which resulted in new recording processes and guidance for professionals and care leavers.

DFE funding has continued for two dedicated homelessness prevention officers within the care leavers service. They continue to work countywide with personal advisors and young people on any emerging **housing issues**. They have assisted in developing the knowledge base of personal advisors in relation to housing issues, have brokered partnerships with housing colleagues and frequently meet with young people to talk through housing options, link with relevant services and try to prevent accommodation arrangements from ending when an issue does arise.

During the pandemic there was a notable increase in the number of private landlords seeking guarantors to secure provision for care leavers, this trend has continued. We recognise this can be a barrier for care leavers securing accommodation and in response developed a rent guarantor scheme for care leavers who are able to evidence the independence skills which they have and manage a tenancy appropriately. The Surrey scheme went live in July 2022. In March 2023 the BBC raised awareness of this national issue for care leavers.



**Cost of living: The care leavers struggling to fin...**  
Uni students who are estranged from their families say they often struggle to get a rent guarantor.  
[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

The service has continued to work closely with colleagues in Commissioning and Land and Property to develop further sufficiency for care leavers. An additional **100 supported accommodation beds were created** through the Commissioning Alliance Framework and became available from April 2022. £5.07m has been approved by the CFL Leadership Team, with final confirmation for capital expenditure given at Corporate Programme Panel in February 2023. Land and Property have now begun searching for suitable properties, with a view to having the first property secured by summer 2023.

Surrey is collaborating with Transform Housing and Support, one of our supported accommodation block bed providers with over 50 years of experience of providing services in Surrey, to fund the development of **4 self-contained beds for Surrey care leavers**. This opportunity allows the county council to prototype a new partnership approach to rapidly develop local care leavers accommodation, whilst also delivering strong value for money for Surrey, due to access of drawing on complimentary funding from Homes England and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The required £240k capital investment has been approved by the CFL Leadership Team and is now progressing to Property Panel for Land and Property confirmation.

Surrey has an under 18 **asylum team** and two dedicated care leaver teams that work solely with those seeking asylum. The majority of unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in Surrey are aged 16 and 17 and often do not have decisions on their asylum status by the point they transfer into the post 18 asylum teams. We have entered into an arrangement with the Home Office to offer a hybrid model of asylum interviews in an attempt to improve the timeliness of young people's asylum



applications being progressed. We have participated fully in the National Transfer Scheme and have continued to accept new arrivals alongside young people that may present within Surrey not linked to the scheme. In the summer of 2022, the government increased the percentage of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children local authorities would accept from 0.07% of a local authority's child population to 0.1%. For Surrey this would mean working with approximately 265 children under the age of 18 before any new requests to accommodate children above this number could be referred to other local authorities.

The service responded to CYP requesting more support with practical life skills by developing a series of workshops called **Surrey How Do I?** These are hands on sessions for CYP which are available on YouTube to watch from home. In January 2023 a DIY session took place in a workshop in Woking. Young people had a great time working on skills such as sawing, sanding, and painting. One young person had recently come to the UK from Sudan, and it warmed everyone's hearts when he carved his mums name in Arabic on the phone holder which he had made.

★ *"I love upcycling and doing anything creative" (care leaver)*

## 5.2 Key themes from Surrey Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ key highlights from feedback include CYP being taught independence skills from an early age by their carers and workers and care leavers received support from their allocated workers and accommodation providers but felt that this started too late. CYP also were not sure of expectations regarding 'independence'.
- ✓ Care leavers that felt supported mentioned their workers, supported accommodation providers and resources such as independence booklets helped them with preparing for independence.
- ✓ The majority of looked after children told us that they felt supported when learning independence skills with only one responder telling us that they felt unsupported and had to learn themselves.
- ✓ Overall, the feedback from care leavers included mostly positive experiences when they were supported to learn independence skills. Some care leavers told us that they had not received any support at all.
- ✓ Young people across the cohort reported foster carers, social workers, personal advisers, workers in residential homes and supported accommodation providers and the User Voice and Participation team supported them with independence skills.

★ *"I feel like I've been pushed into the big world but when help is needed it takes an awfully long time to come." (care leaver 18 years)*

★ *"Yes, I was lucky enough to have a foster cater to teach me but the inconsistency and constant change of social workers sort of interrupted the process." (care leaver aged 21 years)*

★ *"Yes, I talked to the council (CPB) as a looked after child through meetings set up by Care Council." (looked after child 13 years)*

## 5.3 A sample of CPB actions in response to feedback from CYP

### Actions from CPB – theme Preparation for Independence

CPB action	
	Create a checklist for young people, with the input of foster carers, moving into their first home as care leavers

<b>Response</b>	A Pledge from Foster Carers to Children & Young People in their care was developed with help from CYP in foster care
<b>CPB action</b>	Training for Foster Carers to be able to impart the skills for independence to those in the care.
<b>Response</b>	The training offer for foster carers includes training on 'preparing children and young people for independence'.
<b>CPB action</b>	Implement a new method of participation based on Board discussions and suggestions made by the Board
<b>Response</b>	CYP co-chairing CPB meetings will be piloted, and more face-to-face events will be planned to increase engagement in a fun & relaxing way

## 5.4 HEALTH & WELLBEING

### New Leaf Service

The **New Leaf service** supports and provides assessment and intervention for children and young people who are in care, care leavers, adopted and/or under Special Guardianship Orders who are affected by developmental trauma and attachment difficulties. The new service supports unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and supports and monitors funding agreements for children and young people in care who are placed outside of Surrey so they can access local services. The three groups supported by the New Leaf service are:

1. Care leavers 16-25 living in Surrey
2. Children in Care up to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday living in Surrey and 20 miles beyond Surrey borders
3. Post-order Support aged 0-18 who are subject to either an adoption or SGO and adoption

In April 2022 the process of refreshing the CYP **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy (EWMH)** began. The CPB were updated on consultation on the strategy and key findings. In September 2022, three surveys were launched, one for children and young people, one for families and one for professionals to hear their views on improving services for young people, and experiences of accessing mental health support (this included support from doctors, hospitals, schools, youth clubs, charities and/or social workers).

A total of 245 responses from all three surveys were received, with a breakdown per survey as follows:

- Children and Young People survey: 108 respondents (45 of which accessed support services in Surrey).
- Survey for Parents/Carers with a young person who has received EWMH support: 74 respondents
- Stakeholders of CYP EWMH support services: 63 respondents Focus groups

Below respondents to the EWMH surveys listed what Surrey is '**doing well**' to support the emotional and mental health needs of CYP.

## What is good and strong about what we're doing to support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health?



Below respondents to the EWMH surveys listed what **'needs to improve'** in Surrey to better support the emotional and mental health needs of CYP.

## What is not as good and needs improvement about the way we support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health?



Six key themes were identified for the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy:

1. **Self-help.** Provide accessible support and information for families to understand and take care of their own physical health, emotional wellbeing and mental health throughout their life course.
2. **More Accountable and Accessible Signposting.** Work in partnership to signpost to services more effectively so that young people and their families are aware of what's available in their area.
3. **Timeliness of Support.** Quickly acknowledge referrals and provide advice, help, and clarity around waiting times for more extensive and speciality help.

4. **Online Safety and Social Media Use.** Provide support for CYP and their families on how to be a responsible digital citizen and keep yourself and others safe online.
5. **Parent and Carer support.** Provide emotional wellbeing and mental health support for parents and carers to enable them to look after themselves and their children, with more support pathways for those who care for young people.
6. **Workforce Upskilling.** Ensure staff working with CYP feel well-equipped and confident to support CYP with mental health concerns, including self-harm and suicide, taking a child-centred approach that supports Neurodiversity.

In December 2022 a public health lead for CYP **suicide prevention** started in post, this post will be a conduit for CYP suicide prevention across the Surrey system. The all age suicide prevention strategy is currently being engaged on and CYP (universal) are theme four of this strategy. The CYP EWMH and suicide prevention action plan will be delivered by the CYP EWMH and suicide prevention partnership, this partnership action plan is overseen by the Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention Oversight Group. A Key focus for the 2023 is improving the flow of information between these three working groups and implementing learning in a timely way.

Information on the situation in Surrey regarding online safety, suicide prevention and self-harm is below:

## Local Picture:

### Online Safety

- 24% (+4 since 2019) of Primary School pupils said they have received a chat message that scared them or made them upset.
- 35% (+3 since 2019) of Year 6 pupils who have seen images or videos online that upset them.
  - 32% (+7 since 2019) Secondary School pupils responded that they have received a hurtful, nasty or scary message online.
- 37% (+12 since 2019) Secondary School pupils said they chat to people online that they don't know in real life.
  - 29% (+6% since 2019) of Secondary School pupils responded that someone online who they didn't know has asked to see pictures of them.

### Self-Harm

- There has been a significant increase for 15-19 year olds (820.6 per 100,000) in hospital admissions as a result of self-harm in 2020-21. Whilst this is lower than the regional average (826.4 per 100,000), it is significantly higher than the England average (652.6 per 100,000).
- On a local level, an insight from the 2022 Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire, 8% of secondary pupils responded that they 'usually' or 'always' cut or hurt themselves when they have a problem that worries them or they are feeling stressed.

### Suicide

- The Primary Care Mortality Database recorded 43 suicides between the period 2017 to 2020 for people aged under 25 in Surrey. The majority of these people were between the ages of 18 and 24.

## 5.5 Key themes from Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ Our respondents were very well informed and positive when thinking about what being healthy means. This ranged from the general information about healthy eating and being fit, but also included being able to look after yourself and being happy with who you are.
- ✓ The highest responses were based around healthy eating and being fit (40% & 43%), as this is what first comes to mind when thinking about being healthy. As the key aspect of healthy living that is taught in schools it is positive to see that this is at the forefront of the answers.
- ✓ 38% of responses focused on being physically and mentally able to look after yourself and the importance of being happy or feeling good about themselves. This is also reflected in the 34% of responses including the importance of good mental health and the practices required for this. As 17% of the young people that completed the survey have not accessed mental health or

emotional wellbeing support, it is very positive to see that our young people are aware of the importance of good mental health and the impact it can have on being healthy.

- ✓ Other notable mentions included maintaining a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise, as well as being around the “right” people (direct language from the young person), being clean, hygienic and having nice teeth.
- ✓ 83% of respondents stated that they are supported in managing their wellbeing and by a wide range of people. A fantastic 94% (33) of respondents stated that they have been positively supported through covid by a wide range of people.
- ★ *“Being healthy means having a healthy frame of mind, healthy diet and healthy lifestyle” (looked after aged 14 years)*
- ★ *“The nurse is really friendly and nice; she helps to make sure my appointments happen” (looked after aged 10 years)*
- ★ *“Covid has impacted me a lot mentally because I personally had covid 3 times. So I had to isolate in my room. Covid has also made me anxious about getting behind in college or getting ill” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ✓ A fantastic 94% (33) of respondents stated that they have been positively supported through covid by a wide range of people.
- ✓ 51% of young people feel that they have been directly impacted by Covid. The highest response was an impact on their Mental Health, this was closely followed by the impact of being unable to see birth family due to social distancing restrictions.
- ★ *“Kind of like being inside – wasn’t happy about not being able to ride bike to shops” (looked after aged 14 years)*

## 5.6 A sample of CPB actions in response to feedback from CYP

Actions from CPB – theme Health & Wellbeing	
<b>CPB action</b>	Explore the provision of a Prescription Pre-payment Certificate scheme, concerning the exemption from prescription charges for Care Leavers.
<b>Response</b>	On 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 a Pre-Paid Prescription Scheme for care leavers with ongoing health issues was launched (funded by ICG and CS). See annex 3.
<b>CPB action</b>	To look to link the ‘Bright Spots’ and ‘Our Voice Matters’ reports into the deep dive, as well as the other survey undertaken with Looked After Children and Care Leavers, share report findings and action-plan.
<b>Response</b>	In April 2023 CPOG will discuss the action-plan in response to the Bright Spots feedback, information will be shared with CPB members.
<b>CPB action</b>	Designated doctor to attend some of the designated teacher networks or training to reiterate the message around the nuanced approach regarding different health appointments.
<b>Response</b>	Sharon Kefford and her team met with the Teachers Network to talk about health assessments and children being taken out of school.
<b>CPB action</b>	To liaise with the provider of sexual health services to formalise a piece of work looking at how Surrey’s foster carers and residential care workers could have more confidence in how they are interacting with their young people.
<b>Response</b>	

## 5.7 EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (EET)

The Surrey Virtual School presented its statutory report which provided an overview of its work and focus during the academic year 2021-22, including analysis of available end of key stage educational outcomes and progress against other key performance measures. The report also reviewed the progress made in respect of the wider and extended duties of the Virtual School - children previously looked after and with a social worker (introduced in 2018 and 2021 respectively). The rapid pace of improvement at the SVS has continued to accelerate throughout 2021-22 reflected in HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) references to SVS as providing 'effective support' being 'clearly focussed' and 'having a positive impact on the educational progress of children in care.' In light of these key areas, the report identified priorities for securing better educational progress, experiences and outcomes for all children in scope of the Virtual School.

The Virtual School proactively works with others to create a culture of high expectation and aspiration around children looked after, previously looked after and those with a social worker. **Improving educational outcomes** is a collective responsibility and the key responsibilities of the Virtual School are outlined in current DfE statutory and non -statutory guidance. SVS is held to account through the Education Subgroup' of Corporate Parent Board through service challenge and peer review activities and regular reporting to leadership teams against its annual development and improvement plan.

The purpose of **Pupil Premium Plus** (PPP) for looked after children is to close the attainment gap, as detailed in the DfE 'Conditions of Grant' which is updated annually. There has been significant and continuous improvement in the way this grant is used and monitored since being identified as a weakness by OFSTED in 2018. Scrutiny of the use and impact of PPP is fully embedded into the Virtual School's termly quality assurance process for Personal Education Plans and The Virtual School Head completed her annual review of PPP, the review has informed the updated 2022 PPP policy.

Surrey Virtual School has continued with its programme of **training and events for carers** through the year, particularly around supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing post pandemic, understanding the impact of this on children's learning. In addition, the role of 'Education Leads' in all Surrey Children's homes has continued to develop. Education Support Officers advocate determinedly for children and ensure their voices are heard. SVS has also commissioned training from the Educational Psychology service to ensure engagement with children and young people in their PEPs meets their communication needs and preferences. This has led to more visible use of person centred planning in work with children and young people. SVS regularly seeks the views of Care Council members prior to any substantial changes that may affect their education.

Due to the pandemic, there were no end of key stage assessments in the primary or early years phases during 2020-21. Key Stage 4 (Year 11) summer exams were cancelled but instead, young people were awarded **GCSE grades** determined by their teachers, based on a range of evidence. This is a different process to 2020 and therefore results cannot be compared. SVS conducted its own collection of results at Key Stage 4, contacting foster carers individually for 104 young people, which enabled bespoke advice and guidance to be provided and entry for Functional Skills in English or maths (a level 2 qualification like GCSE) where needed. More young people achieved grades 4 and 5 in both English and maths than 2020, however assessments were based on a different system. 64% of young people achieved 'any qualification' compared with 57.5% in 2020, however SVS remain focused on raising this further with the intention that no child enters post 16 without any qualifications.

Similar to 2020, SVS's analysis has identified **school moves as contributing to poorer Key Stage 4** outcomes. The Virtual School has worked hard to minimise disruption to education during 2021-22 and as a result fewer young people (28) experienced a school move during year 10 or 11 compared with 42 the previous year. A range of measures are in place to support progress and outcomes at Key Stage 4 including careers coaching, Functional Skills qualifications, access to the National tutoring Programme (NTP) and therapeutic interventions – all personalised to the needs of individual children.

80% of children are in **good and outstanding schools**, compared with 73% at the same point last year, and the Virtual School has forged strong links with the Royal Springboard Foundation and the independent schools sector, to ensure that children can benefit from the bursary scheme if they meet the criteria. OFSTED concluded in 2021 that “The virtual school provides effective support to enable children in care to attend school. Whilst overall attendance for children in care has been good, SVS is focusing its energies on improving the attendance of children who are ‘persistently absent’ (below 90% attendance) and ‘severely absent’ (a new DFE category describing attendance below 50%). Our analysis has highlighted some specific groups of children who may be more vulnerable to poor attendance than others and we will work closely with Inclusion teams to support these children and implement the new DFE guidance published in 2022. looked after children are five times more likely to experience a ‘suspension’ (previously known as fixed term exclusion) than all children and 1.5 times more likely than children in need (Timpson Review of School Exclusion ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))).

SVS continues to work with young people in Year 13 once they become **care leavers**. A small but dedicated team supports young people in years 12 and 13. Post 16 has been an area of considerable development for SVS during 2021-22 whilst also posing some complex challenges. Virtual Schools hold no statutory powers to direct post 16 settings to admit young people to their roll, unlike statutory school age. Whilst there is currently no pupil premium plus linked with young people beyond Year 11, Virtual School Heads have lobbied the DFE to introduce this. Alongside 9 other LAs, SVS is now entering a second year of a national post 16 pupil premium pilot and contributing strongly to the evidence for change in this area.

SVS analysis of reasons why young people become **NEET** has enabled us to develop targeted and personalised support for small groups of young people. For example, we are providing a dedicated careers and work coach for young people who feel strongly that employment is the only post 16 path for them. We have also replicated the support offer we have in place for young people in Key Stage 4 in our post 16 work, so that opportunities to gain level 2 qualifications, access tutoring support and careers coaching is accessible to young people at risk of NEET. An additional 9 young people started university in September 2021 and our first SVS apprentice leaves us to start University in September 2022.

As of July 2022, there were 210 **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people** on the SVS register, compared with 133 at the same point last year. 47 were of statutory school age and 163 post-16. SVS has a clear education offer in place for UASC when they first arrive, which is put into place immediately- whilst longer term provision is identified. SVS invests significantly into each young person's education, valuing their first language and supporting development of their English language skills so they get the best possible start once in the care of Surrey. SVS works closely the LA's REMA service and has partnerships with the third sector including Big Leaf, CARAS and the Refugee Council to enhance the education offer and provide access to the social and emotional support needed by this group of young people.

Links with **SEND** teams have significantly strengthened throughout 2021-22 and there is a joint action plan in place to ensure that children's needs are met and the right education provision in place for each

child with minimum delay. Our own data and national datasets indicate that children looked after are overrepresented when SEND data is considered. The increased incident of SEND is often related to several issues; neglect in early years, complex medical and learning needs and trauma experienced by young people before they come into care.

## 5.8 Key themes from Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ Positively, 31% of these young people specifically mentioned the importance of EET when it comes to developing their skills and options for the future, with 28% highlighting the opportunities available to them by attending education and training, and the wider options open to them by completing qualifications and building their confidence.
- ✓ 25% of responses focused on how EET helps them to access not just a job, but specifically a career, with emphasis on EET providing them the opportunity to improve their life and develop a passion for a specific area.
- ✓ The importance of EET for future stability (3%) and income (17%) are also key themes mentioned by several respondents. Highlighting, as usual, the awareness and current worries of the cost of living crisis and funds available to these young people.
- ★ *“Everything is good at school I have lots of friends and am going for head girl” (looked after 10 years)*
- ★ *“I was able to study what I wanted in college however my grades were affected by lack of motivation and chronic illness. I am grateful that even without the high grades I had wished for, I now have a placement in an enjoyable job and can pursue a more fitting way of education while I work rather than going to university (which I find difficult with my way of working).” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“Education means everything to me, I finished college and worked for a couple of years and then realised what I want to do in life. I went back to education to study what I’m most passionate about.” (care leaver 20 years)*

### What advice would you give to your younger self on education, employment and training?

- ★ *“To my younger self I would say to have stayed in education longer and finished college and then also to have explored the opportunity of going to university which I didn’t even consider when I was younger.” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“I am 10 and following my own advice but I would try harder to follow the rules and listen to people.” (looked after child 10 years)*
- ★ *“You will get there one day, try as many different ways of engaging in education/training. It really makes a difference in your life.” (care leaver 22 years)*

## 5.9 A sample of key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

### Actions from CPB – Education, Employment and Training

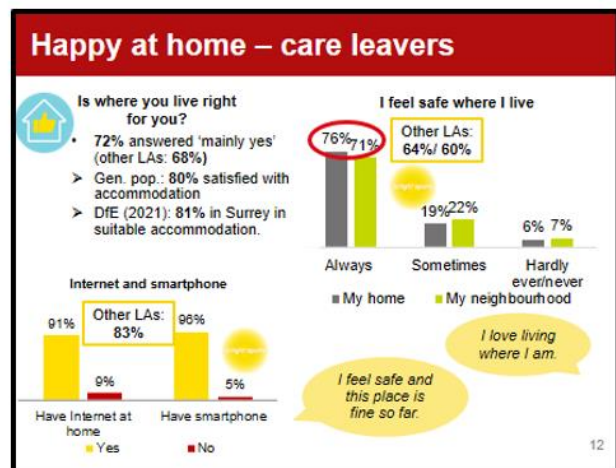
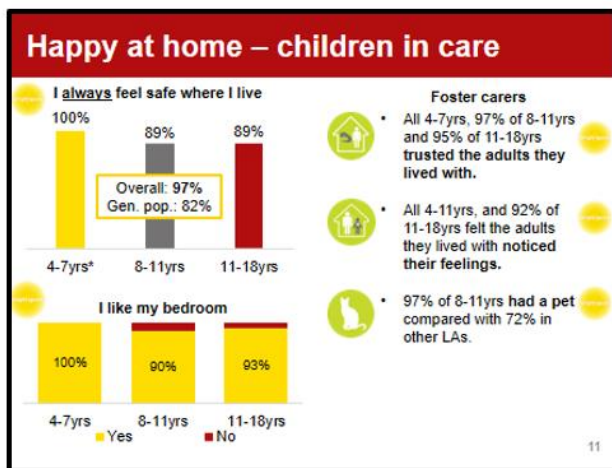
<b>CPB action</b>	A NEET Task and Finish Group will be formed to go into a deeper dive into the issues raised in the item, providing recommendations back to the Board in due course. To define the themes of the task and finish group.
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<b>Response</b>	The third meeting of the NEET T&F Group, chaired by Cllr. Jonathan Essex is scheduled in April 2023.
<b>CPB action</b>	To follow up that Member's offer of support around apprenticeships and will explore the opportunities offered by the Open University.
<b>Response</b>	This action has contributed to the formation of the NEET T&F Group, the member in question has joined this group and is liaising directly with the AD. Open University offers are circulated monthly in a UVP EET update.
<b>CPB action</b>	The User Voice and Participation Officer will investigate putting together a working document around work experience and the opportunities available and would share that widely.
<b>Response</b>	This piece of work will be delivered via the NEET T&G Group
<b>CPB action</b>	To look to raise the matter of having trauma and attachment issues being part of initial teacher with the DfE.
<b>Response</b>	SVS Head raised this with the National Association of Virtual School Heads and requested it to be discussed at the next board meeting.

## 5.10 PERMANENCE, PLANNING AND SUFFICIENCY

In 2022 two large surveys were commissioned by Coram to understand the views of Care Leavers: 'Your Life Beyond Care' survey and Looked After Children: 'Your Life, Your Care' survey. Feedback from children in care and care leavers on 'home life' was a strength or **Bright Spot** for Surrey.



As set out in our Looked After Children and Care Leavers **Sufficiency Strategy**, SCC are particularly focussed on five overall priorities:

1. Surrey homes for Surrey children
2. Enabling more children to live in family settings
3. Having a wide range of placements for diverse needs
4. Developing homes of the highest quality
5. Providing support to move to independence

Bringing about lasting change in response to these five priorities will take time, commitment, and resources, as we continue to develop and improve our collective practice, processes and provision in

the county. Our longer-term strategic ambition is that “**every looked after child has a choice to remain in Surrey**, where this is appropriate to their needs”. Our working hypothesis is that this would look like 80% of our looked after children being able to live in Surrey. Following the January 2022 ILACS inspection, Ofsted commented; “A comprehensive sufficiency strategy is being implemented. The strategy is based on a detailed understanding of the gap between identified needs and resources. This is leading to an increased range of suitable accommodation options for children, although some gaps remain, especially for care leavers.

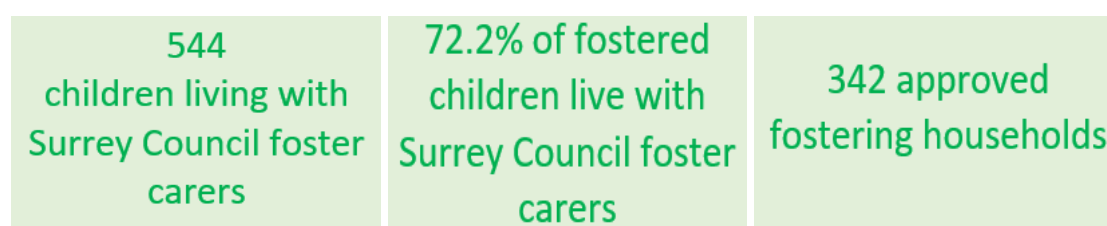
01 April 2022 we saw an increase of 41 looked after children in Surrey when compared to the previous year. When looking at the **proportion of looked after children who are living in Surrey** and/or within 20 miles of their home address (a broader measure of sufficiency), we can see greater progress across 12 months – 61.7% (612 individuals) in April 2021 compared to 64.9% (679 individuals) in April 2022, having peaked at 66.1% (694 individuals) in December 2021.

**Some Sufficiency achievements throughout the year include:**

Launched and delivered year 1 of a new sufficiency-focussed transformation programme – Placement Value and Outcomes (PVO)
Focussed on improving the sufficiency and quality of supported accommodation in Surrey
Begun a transformation of our SCC-run children’s homes to prepare for the future
Laying the foundations for sufficiency growth within in-house fostering
Mobilising a new practice model to reduce entry to care and emergency placements
Developing and maximising use of the external market of provision in Surrey

In 2023 Cabinet approved an **increase in payments to Surrey County Council foster carers**, recognising the highly skilled nature of fostering and the vital role our carers play in supporting Surrey’s children.

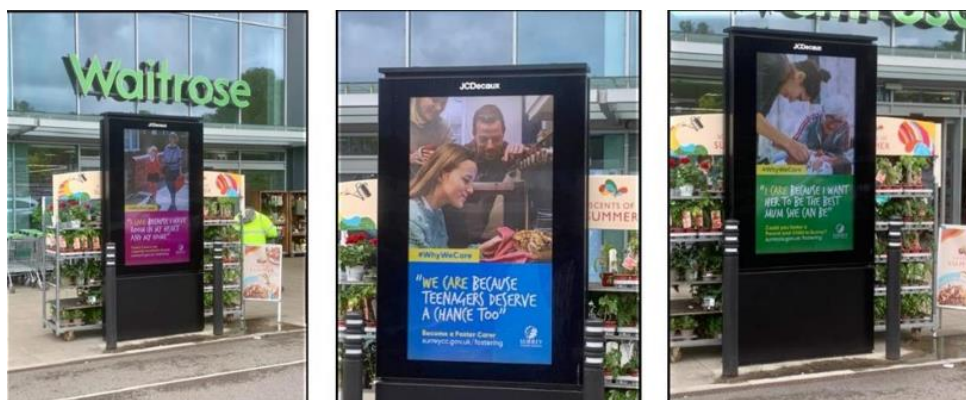
**Fostering Service Highlights March 2022**



A key challenge for the Fostering Service is to recruit an additional 120 new fostering households over the next two years, 35 in the coming year to support a greater number of children being cared for in Surrey whilst ensuring that the standard of care for children remains high and their outcomes align with our aspirations for them. The service approved 21 new fostering families, which does not include connected foster carers during 2021/2022 period, which was 17 fewer than in 2020/2021. 41 Connected persons foster carers were approved during last year, which means that for many children they have been able to live with family members, or friends known to them.

The service has focused on ‘**Surrey homes for Surrey children**’, targeting much of their activity in areas of the county where many of our looked after children are from. These targeted activities included local community events, advertising in local libraries, shops, places of worship and in local magazines,

door-to-door leaflet drops and posting in local Facebook groups. The service has been working alongside current foster carers and staff to hold recruitment events within local communities. This has included events in local schools and with health partners. This resulted in 27 referrals from foster carers and Surrey staff over the course of 2021 - 2022.



Surrey commissioned Essex in their capacity as a **Partner in Practice** to undertake a review of Surrey's Fostering service in November 2021. The purpose of this was to provide independent scrutiny of Surrey's Fostering Service and to ensure we were able to meet the service wide sufficiency plan that had been proposed. This was achieved by meeting with senior managers, members of the fostering service and stakeholders across children's service, meeting with foster carers and analysing performance data. Work is well underway to implement recommendations from the Essex review, including review of the foster carer allowance.

### Children's Homes and Family Contact Centre Capital Project update 2023

In 2022 Cabinet approved a significant capital programme to build three new children's homes, one contact centre and make substantial building repairs and extensions to existing homes and a respite centre for children with disabilities. This investment in creating Surrey homes for Surrey children, will make Surrey one of the largest in-house providers of accommodation for children with complex needs.

Surrey has a large estate of children's homes, which are all registered Ofsted providers.



Below is a summary of the looked after children capital programme :

Name of home/centre	Update (as of Feb 2023)	Estimated Completion Date

Walton Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom No Wrong Door home, to accommodate four children plus staff members and emergency temporary accommodation	22-05-2023 Operational
Dorking Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom annex, to accommodate four children plus staff members and specialist service provision	May - 2025 Operational
Epsom Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home to accommodate four children plus staff members	15-05-2023 Operational
Cobham Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom annex, to accommodate four children plus staff members and additional service provision (TBC)	August 2025 Operational
Shaw Family Contact Centre	Construction of a brand-new family contact centre with associated parking to replace the former Shaw Family Contact Centre	28-07-2023 Full Practical Completion

There are key national challenges in finding suitable homes for looked after children and care leavers, including a lack of placements of the right kind in the right places. There are large private providers making materially higher profits, and charging materially higher prices, than we would expect if the market was functioning effectively. Alongside this, there are also national challenges with regards to changes introduced to make it unlawful to place children under the age of 16 in unregulated provision. Whilst Surrey County Council is supportive of the ambition behind this change, it is presenting all local authorities with challenges placing a small number of children with more challenging behaviours and complex needs.

## 5.11 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ Several young people reported the location of where they live as something they would like to change.
- ✓ Young people mentioned the distance from their education and employment being an issue and being closer to these places would make where they live more positive.
- ✓ CYP reported that to them 'Permanence' is a very important concept, it means being able to call the place in which they live 'home', without being afraid of having to move again; it's somewhere where they feel safe and stable, and that gives them a sense of belonging. Some young people also referred to permanence in terms of stable education and employment.
- ✓ The majority of CYP feel supported where they live, they have good relationships and communicate well within the home, with some saying that it feels like family.

★ *"I have a permanent home, a good support network around me and a stable job with steady income which is all I can ask for which helps."* (care leaver 18yrs)

- ★ *“I went from being in semi-independent with Moving On and having the support from them, to now having my own flat which I’ve been in for nearly 2 years.” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ★ *“My PA is amazing at telling me what Surrey are going to fund for me or any opportunities where I can better myself etc. She helps me with any issues I don’t understand and if she doesn’t know herself, she seeks out the information and comes back to me.” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ★ *“I like where I live but I want to be at home with my family. I don’t want to be where I am forever.” (looked after aged 15 years)*

## 5.12 A sample of actions in response to feedback from our CYP

Actions from CPB – Placements, Planning and Sufficiency	
<b>CPB action</b>	Members wished for details of a face-to-face corporate parenting event to engage with children & young people.
<b>Response</b>	Agreed to organise a Children’s Summer Event in 2022
<b>CPB action</b>	Members requested a breakdown of CYP that participate in Board consultation, to broaden representation & diversity.
<b>Response</b>	UVP process was updated to clearly demonstrate UASC and to increase participation of CLA aged 13 years and under
<b>CPB action</b>	Members requested a matrix of what providers Surrey uses & profits being made by large privately owned providers.
<b>Response</b>	A detailed update was shared providing information on high profits of private housing providers and details of providers being used by SCC.
<b>CPB action</b>	Members were dissatisfied with ‘other’ category when reporting NEET care leavers & requested a breakdown.
<b>Response</b>	Other category (G5) has been broken down to identify a clear picture of care leavers who are unable/not in EET.
<b>CPB action</b>	Provide a briefing note on the key changes between the first plan and the second plan regarding the Sufficiency Strategy and how things had progressed. Board also requested a detailed briefing on the reasons for placement moves.
<b>Response</b>	A detailed briefing was shared with CPB members, in addition two sufficiency workshops were held with members to develop learning.

## 5.13 LEISURE, CULTURE & LIFE SKILLS

In 2017 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a duty on all local authorities in England to publish information about the services the local authority offers care leavers aged 18-25 years. The current [Surrey Local Offer for Care Leavers](#) was developed in 2019/2020 and in 2021 a series of meetings were held to review, amend, improve and expand the content of the Local Offer to ensure its relevance for care leavers. The Ofsted Monitoring visit in 2021 noted that “young people were provided with extensive information in both paper and digital formats and have accessible links and signposts to more detailed information and further sources of advice”. In addition to clear information on rights and entitlements for care leavers, a Young Person’s Finance Policy was developed for looked after CYP aged 0-18 years, this policy covered finance for CYP living in the various types of placement options, it

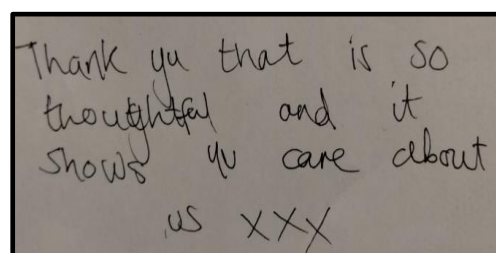
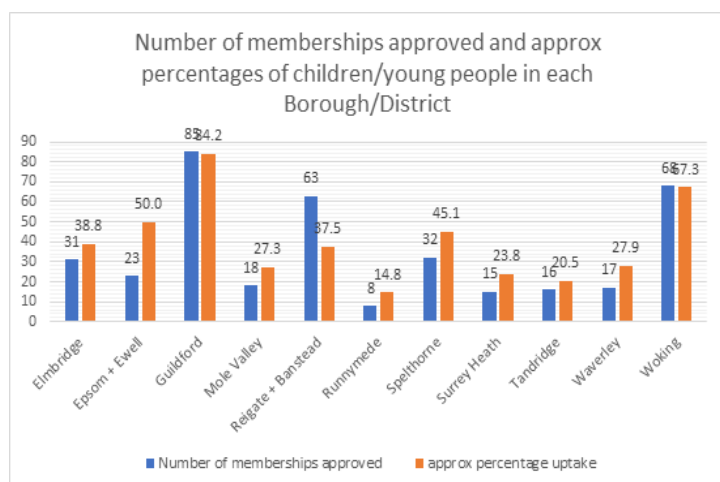
addressed **'out of policy'** requests, such as clothing for a school Prom and set out clear finance processes for workers and managers.

Following advocacy from CPB members, the leisure offer launched on 1st June 2022 operating across all 11 borough councils in Surrey and encompassing all 25 local authority owned leisure centres across 6 different leisure operators (**Places Leisure, Everyone Active, Freedom Leisure, GLL/Better, Achieve Lifestyle, Fusion Lifestyle**). The offer is promoted directly to foster families via Supervising Social Workers, the Surrey Fostering Network and direct to looked after children via Social Workers/children's home workers and Care Leavers are reached via their Personal Advisers.

In June 2022 we completed a 6-month review of the Leisure Offer, several recommendations were made to improve promotion and processing by some leisure operators. In the first two quarters/2022 over 600 applications were submitted and over 350 leisure cards were issued to CYP and carers. The offer is currently being utilised by up to 35% of CYP living in county.

Quarter	Applications received	Eligible applications	Sent to leisure centres	Approved by leisure centres	Cards issued
1	240	216	177	137	137
2	376	350	350	230	230

The table below highlights access across the county, Guildford has issued the highest number of leisure centre cards and Runnymede the lowest, to some extent this represents the population of CYP and foster families living in borough councils across Surrey.



**'Above is a message from a care leaver to each of the borough councils and leisure operators for being excellent corporate parents and working in partnership to create such a beneficial leisure offer'.**

- ★ *"I'd also like to say thank you for the gym membership it's helped me so much with my mental health and venting it through the gym. So massive thank you!"* (care leaver 20 years)
- ★ *"It was a great way to channel the negativity into something positive, I'm at the gym now and have been every single day for the past 2 weeks"* (care leaver 18 years)
- ★ *"I have been working with an isolated young man to increase his independence in the community. Having a leisure card means that he can access climbing sessions with another young person, helping his physical and mental health".* (Personal Advisor)

Due to the tenacious effort of the CPB elected members and DCS, all 11 borough councils now provide **council tax exemption** for Surrey care leavers. In 2022 a working group reviewed the council tax

scheme and improved finance processes and recording. The scheme was also extended to care leavers closed to the service aged up to 25 years and promotional materials were developed.

During the past 18 months, SVS has worked with **Surrey Arts** to offer free music lessons to Surrey Looked After Children. SVS developed 'Summer Extravaganza' as a summer holiday offer to improve 'soft skills' primarily for our Y6 children transitioning to secondary school. The Big Leaf Foundation ran a 3 night residential to Jamie's Farm for our UASC and promoted the 'family learning' offer from Surrey Adult Learning (SAL). Summer holiday events from different providers were captured in one leaflet produced by a care experienced SVS events apprentice.

**Surrey's Fostering Service** and Children's Homes enable children to access a wide range of community based and tailored leisure activities, both services promote the Celebration Fund as a useful source of funding for CYP living in all placement types to apply for items such as, sports equipment, day trips and leisure activities.

## 5.14 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ 63% said they do have access to opportunities to access leisure activities, highlighting sports clubs, gyms, sea cadets and libraries. Some young people attended life skills workshops around managing money and cooking, but these were in the minority.
  - ✓ 21% of young people stated that they do not have the opportunity to access these types of experiences, reasons given were 'reduced access for 18+ to a wider range of activities, high cost and not have finances available to spend on these additional activities. CYP also told us 'feeling a lack of community or friends to attend with' also prevented them accessing activities.
  - ✓ 14% of young people were positive but had a mixed experience. This was due to a wide variety of reasons from lack of variety of activities and locations as the main factors.
  - ✓ The key barrier to accessing activities was lack of funding, 46% of CYP said they do not have enough financial assistance to access leisure, cultural or life skills activities.
- ★ *"I live near where I can access gym which has facilities like sauna, swimming pool and dance classes."* (care leaver 22 years)
- ★ *"I barely have enough to pay my bills and despite having a job and receiving universal credit I still get behind on drivers insurance and rent etc, so I don't really have enough money to do anything but thankfully my mum (foster mum) does pay for me".* (care leaver 20 years)

### 'If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you change about Leisure, Culture or Life Skills support from services'?

- ✓ There was a wide range of opinions expressed with this question. The main points are covered within Finance and Money, 46%, Types of Activity, 20%, and Access, 17%. Positively, 10% of respondents stated that there is nothing to currently change about the provision.

## 5.15 A sample of key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

### Actions from CPB – Leisure, Culture & Life Skills

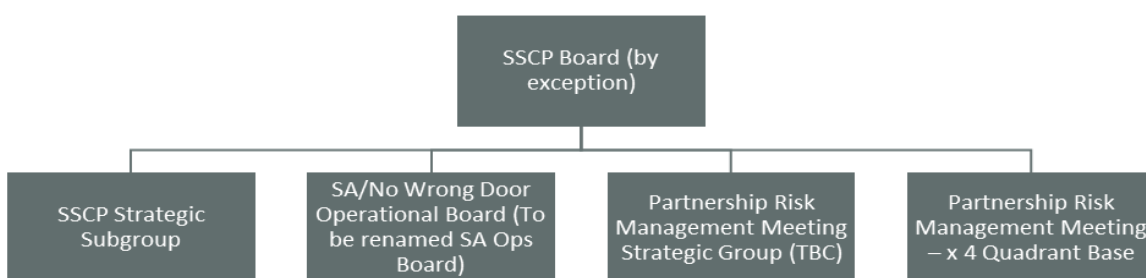
<b>CPB action</b>	The AD South-West Quadrant will look to raise the issue of the need to have a consistent housing offer and start to identify housing providers.
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<b>Response</b>	A housing protocol is in a mature stage of development with borough council colleagues.
<b>CPB action</b>	Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to promote the leisure activities to their young people, to link up with the UVP team on how best to continue to promote the available offers particularly those coming up to age 18.
<b>Response</b>	The corporate parenting project manager attends all service meetings on a bi-annual basis and will regularly share updates with IRO's and service managers.
<b>CPB action</b>	The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning will explore the idea of having a Surrey passport for young people to access all of the leisure and cultural provision in the county for free without having to worry about the cost of transport.
<b>Response</b>	The Cabinet Lead for Education & Learning is championing 'discounted travel for care leavers in Surrey'. This is also a Care Leaver Covenant action.

## 5.16 SAFEGUARDING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

The **Safeguarding Partnership** has committed to reviewing the processes around need and risk for all children in Surrey including those looked after. A review of the adolescent offer has resulted in the establishment of a Safeguarding Adolescents Board. The ambition for 2023 is to strengthen the exploitation/contextual safeguarding pathways as a partnership under the Safeguarding Adolescent Partnership Board to ensure our most at risk children get the appropriate resource and support across the partnership, including safe spaces for children to meet and build social networks, there are plans to create a second tier of support and police intelligence across the county council.

A new governance structure for the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership, will have a positive impact on keeping children safe.



The new **Safeguarding Adolescents Strategic sub-group** was established to provide governance and direction in relation to multi-agency partnership working, strategy, practice, and risk management arrangements for adolescents. This sub-group will oversee all aspects of partnership Safeguarding Adolescents work, including the Adolescent No Wrong Door agenda and ensure that all work is coordinated and joined-up. The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Sub-Group will report directly into the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership and by exception into the Health and Wellbeing Board. The



Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Sub-Group will also oversee the board and programmes that sit underneath as per the structure chart noted above.

A memorandum of understanding is in place between **Surrey police and Children's Social Care** in relation to children placed in supported living, lodgings or accommodation in Surrey who may be at risk of going missing and/or exploitation. Surrey also carries out its responsibility as a Prevent first responder to report all children identified as being at risk of trafficking and/or radicalisation to the Home Office. Recent reports suggest that more girls are coming to the notice of Local Authorities for criminal exploitation and County Lines and that the most successful support network is usually that of a positive stable home life. Children's social care work enormously hard to connect with these children using motivational interviewing techniques alongside trauma informed practices and the support of our partners.

Following the Ofsted visit in February 2022, an audit was undertaken on all the experiencing and significant exploitation risk rated children case files. These audits showed a marked improvement in safety planning and recording. A further round of audits of our work on intervention and disruption across the partnership will be completed in spring 2023.

The Police are revising their tactical and strategic plans, and as part of this will be developing an intelligence led data product, that identifies who the **highest risk children** are, who are being exploited/regularly coming into contact with police/going missing/being groomed to commit crime etc. To ensure efforts are focussed on the right children and targeting those offenders that pose most risk to children, through the Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group Meetings. To enhance the response to targeting those that abuse children, police will be delivering refresher training on Child Exploitation Disruption Tactics and use of ancillary orders. Empowering officers and staff to utilise a suite of powers and orders to target perpetrators.

Police are also planning on forging closer links with the **3<sup>rd</sup> sector safeguarding network**, to develop opportunities to increase the intelligence picture, so that activity can be targeted at places where children and young people might be most at risk. Discussions are currently underway with Surrey Youth Focus, regarding opportunities to link in with those working in the Community.

## 5.17 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ CYP reported that communication and support from workers and carers can help with positive feelings of safety; this includes young people speaking to friends, family and the police.
  - ✓ CYP told us that having their basic needs met such as food, warm clothes, exercise and somewhere safe to live can all increase their feelings of being safe.
  - ✓ Both looked after children and care leavers reported that not having a safe and trusted adult to talk to can make them feel unsafe, however this varied between workers, carers and their family.
  - ✓ Young people mentioned going out into the community late at night can make them feel unsafe. It was also reported that being around people they don't know and going to places they don't know can increase their sense of feeling unsafe.
  - ✓ Several care leavers told us that loneliness, uncertainty, and isolation can cause a feeling of unsafety.
- ★ *“Being in my own space, knowing that I have money, food and shelter and having people around me.” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“Where I live is good because I feel very safe and I love the foster carers who I live with and I feel like I can talk to them whenever I feel I need to talk about something.” (looked after child)*

★ *“Going out at night to places I don't know might make me feel less safe.” (care leaver 21 years)*

**What three things would make you feel safer?** The top three things listed by young people that would make them feel safer were: a good support network, having someone to talk to and activities to help with their mental health.

- ✓ Several young people reported having a trusted adult they could talk to would help them to feel safer. Examples given were friends, family and the police.

## 5.18 Key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

Actions from CPB – Safeguarding of looked after children & care leavers	
<b>CPB action</b>	The UVP Officer will do more probing and in-depth questions going forward in consultation with the existing groups rather than through the UVP survey and she will liaise with the group leads on the matter.
<b>Response</b>	Follow up discussions are held with CYP following pre-meetings to identify additional support needs and signpost where necessary. Other themed consultation is collated and shared with the Board.
<b>CPB action</b>	The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families will discuss the issues around housing with officers: - around supported living and more work needed to be done with the borough and district councils, and housing providers around permanent housing.
<b>Response</b>	A housing protocol is in a mature stage of development, members and officers raise housing issues with colleagues at D&B quarterly meetings.
<b>CPB action</b>	The Missing and Exploitation Lead will follow up with the Member about his question around whether Surrey had any children at risk of exploitation in semi-independent accommodation.
<b>Response</b>	A detailed agenda item discussing exploitation & missing from care was discussed at CPOG and future reporting will include names of placement providers when presenting data. Information is shared with Gateway to resources.

## 6. Summary

This has been somewhat of a transformational year for the corporate parenting board. Sponsored projects have made excellent progress in establishing new and improved offers for CYP. A pre-paid prescription scheme for care leavers, a universal leisure offer, and a boxing offer are just some examples of service development driven by listening to the needs of CYP with lived experience. The ambitious Capital Programme is building 'Surrey homes for Surrey children', this will develop new housing provision for care leavers including three new children's homes.

Through the adoption of the Care Leaver Covenant in 2023, members will continue to ask, 'Is this good enough for my child?' and advocate for better provision and opportunities for care leavers to live independent and successful lives. With Covenant ambassadors, including Joanna Killian, SCC CEO, we will drive a whole local authority approach to corporate parenting responsibilities.

The Board has a refreshed Forward Plan 2023/24 that puts CYP at the centre of our work. Members are keen to explore dynamic ways to meaningfully engage and communicate with children and young people in our care. Board-led events, including the Children's Summer event and Care leavers-week autumn event, will provide further opportunities to showcase the outstanding achievements of CYP and the commitment of Surrey Children's Services and its partners, to be outstanding corporate parents.

This is going to be an exciting and busy year ahead and we look forward to providing an update on our progress in 2024.

**"Children are not the people of tomorrow,  
but are people of today.  
They have a right to be taken seriously,  
And to be treated with tenderness and  
respect.  
They should be allowed to grow into  
whoever they were meant to be –  
'The unknown person' inside each of them  
is our hope for the future"**  
Janusz Korczak

# Annex 1. Corporate Parenting Board Forward Plan 2023/24

## Corporate Parenting Board 2023-24 Forward Plan

16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 CPOG – 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	03 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023 CPOG – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	05 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 CPOG – 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<p><b>Annual Reports</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> <b>NO</b> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)IRO Annual report. (2)Children's Homes Annual report. (3)CPB Annual report. (4)Data of CLA &amp; CL's report.</p> <p><b>No Standing agenda items</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 1: Placements, Sufficiency, Permanence</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)Permanence report (FYI) (2)Sufficiency report. (3)Adoption annual report. (4)Fostering annual report.</p> <p><b>Standing agenda items</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 2: Education, Employment &amp; Training</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)SV Head annual report &amp; care leavers EET/apprenticeships. (2)Looked after children with SEND.</p> <p><b>Standing agenda Items</b></p>
30 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023 CPOG – 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 CPOG – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 CPOG – 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<p><b>Theme 3: Health, Wellbeing &amp; CAMHS</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)EWMH and Mindworks report. (2)Surrey Heartlands ICB report.</p> <p><b>Standing agenda Items</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 4: Safeguarding children looked after &amp; care leavers</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)Criminal exploitation, missing &amp; contextual safeguarding report. (2)Safeguarding, bullying &amp; mental health report.</p> <p><b>Standing agenda Items</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 5: Preparation for Independence</b></p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)Moving towards independence (care leaver report). (2)Independent skills, leisure , culture &amp; skills report.</p> <p><b>Standing agenda Items</b></p>

## Annex 2. Glossary of Acronyms

ACME	Area Children Missing Education
AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
ASDAN	Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network
ASE	Adoption Southeast
BC	Borough Council
CYP/CYP	Children and Young People with care experience
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CLA	Child looked after
CLC	Care Leaver Covenant
CME	Children Missing & Exploited
CPB	Corporate Parenting Board
CPOG	Corporate Parenting Operational Group
CSH	Central Surrey Heath
D&B	District & Borough
DFE	Department For Education
EET	Education, Employment & Training
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages
EWMH	Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health
FCE	Foster Care Executive
HOSG	Health Outcomes Sub-Group
IHA	Initial Health Assessment
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
IRO	Independent Review Officer
IV	Independent Visitor
KLOE	Key Lines of Inquiry
LCS	Leaving Care Service
LCS	Liquid logic Children's Social Care System Software
LMCS	Lead Member of Children's Services
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NTS	National Transfer Scheme
NWD	No Wrong Door
PA	Personal Advisor
PEP	Personal Education Plans
PVO	Placement Value Outcomes
REMA	Race equality & Minority Achievement
SAL	Surrey Adult Learning
SCC	Surrey County Council
SCIFF	Social Care Common Inspection Framework
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHS	Surrey Healthy Schools
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SVS	Surrey Virtual School
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
UVP	User Voice & Participation (team)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

## Annex 3. Pre-paid prescription flyer

**COST OF LIVING**

**NO ONE LEFT BEHIND** | **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ARE YOU A CARE LEAVER?**

You could be entitled to

**FREE PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES**

**Rx**

- You must be registered with a GP in Surrey
- Be a care leaver and eligible to receive a leaving care service from Surrey County Council
- Aged between 18 to 25 years old
- Require repeat prescriptions for ongoing medication
- Not already be exempt from prescription charges:
  - Young person in apprenticeship or work
  - Young person earning more than £15,276 per annum



For more information contact your Personal Adviser, or scan the QR code

**NHS**