

## CABINET – 31 OCTOBER 2023

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions:**Question (1): Anna Sutherland**

Regarding the EHCP process, the SEND legislation remains clear that Local Authorities MUST involve families through the process. The 2015 SEND Cop states:

'9.21. Local authorities must consult the child and the child's parent or the young person throughout the process of assessment and production of an EHC plan. They should also involve the child as far as possible in this process. The needs of the individual child and young person should sit at the heart of the assessment and planning process. Planning should start with the individual and **local authorities must have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of the child, child's parent or young person, their aspirations, the outcomes they wish to seek and the support they need to achieve them.**'

Unfortunately for some SEND families in Surrey, this absolutely does not happen. For example, when parents are fortunate enough to be able to scrimp and save, or borrow, to pay for **INDEPENDENT** high quality, expert, detailed assessments for their child or children, these are disregarded by Surrey, with no robust evidence to support why they cannot be used to update EHCPs. Sometimes, no reason at all is given, these reports are simply ignored.

On Surrey's Local Offer, you say, 'We will review your child's EHC plan every year and, **working together with you, we will ask you and your child what you think about the progress that has been made and what you want to happen**'.

How does Surrey's SEND team say they ensure that the families' independent reports (which the family wishes to be included) are actually included in the EHCP process?

**Reply:**

The SEN service in Surrey is committed to seeking the views of children, young people and parent carers to inform the Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment process.

A new template for EHC Plans was devised in collaboration with Family Voice Surrey and has been in operation for approximately 2 years. This was specifically designed to capture the views and aspirations of children, young people and their families ensuring co-produced, person-centred assessments.

Alongside listening to the voices of children, young people and their families, the SEN service has always and continues to refer to private reports and other advice submitted by parent carers as part of the EHC needs assessment process. These reports are considered alongside the local authority's own commissioned reports.

In the summer of 2023, in recognition of the delays in the provision of EP advice, the County Council took the decision, on a temporary basis, to consider private EP advice as the sole EP advice within the needs assessment process where parents requested this, and where the report met the Joint Professional Liaison Group standards. Please see link for further information.

<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/parents-and-carers/ehcp/ep-advice>

Where parents request us to consider the advice they have secured, the private educational psychology advice is considered against the professional standards. Where it is agreed that the report can be used as the sole EP report, the advice is incorporated into the draft EHC needs assessment (if a decision to issue an EHC plan is made).

Where a decision to issue an EHCP is made, the SEN service is responsible for considering all advice and determining the evidence that is most relevant to incorporate into a draft plan. This means that there are times when draft EHCPs may not reflect every element of a private report.

During the assessment, parents can raise their concerns about a draft plan as part of the co-production process. Parent carers receive a copy of advice commissioned by the LA following professional involvement. If there are any concerns or questions regarding the advice, parent carers are invited to contact the professional involved to resolve these at the earliest time.

The SEN service makes the final decision about what is included in an EHCP. If a parent does not feel that their child's needs have been adequately understood or reflected in a plan this can be raised as a dispute for mediation and ultimately as an appeal with the first-tier tribunal

**Clare Curran**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning**  
**31 October 2023**

**Question (2): Paul Kennedy**

In relation to the proposed Wisley New Town development (GBC planning application 22/P/01175), is it Surrey County Council's position (if the current appeal is allowed) that there should be a primary and/or secondary school on-site, and:

a) if yes, what is the expected number (post-construction) of students having to travel to the site from other areas; and/or

b) if not, what is the expected number (post-construction) of students having to travel from the site to other schools?

## Reply:

This response has been taken from the Surrey County Council response to the Guildford Borough Council planning application and is available in full through the link below:

[https://publicaccess.guildford.gov.uk/online-applications/files/786CC27140D5788FCA417993B7CFD157/pdf/22\\_P\\_01175-SCC\\_EDUCATION\\_RESPONSE-1771806.pdf](https://publicaccess.guildford.gov.uk/online-applications/files/786CC27140D5788FCA417993B7CFD157/pdf/22_P_01175-SCC_EDUCATION_RESPONSE-1771806.pdf)

Contributions are calculated on the pupil yield from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) housing mix provided by Guildford Borough Council. Affordable housing has been calculated at 40% of the total development. This can be amended if required.

It is anticipated that this development would yield on average 710 school age children that would require school places based on the SHMA housing mix and 8 Gypsy / Traveller pitches provided by Guildford Borough Council.

### Primary

The School Organisation Plan 2022 to 2032, in line with DfE expectation on school size, states that in order for a primary school to be sustainable, a provision will need to be 'at least two forms of entry (420 places)'. The primary pupil yield for the combined developments on Wisley Airfield including the Wisley Airfield development, the Land north of Ockham Lane and the Land at Bridge End Farm is projected to be 405 pupils.

Should the housing mix outlined in this justification be accurate to what is built, a 2FE primary school is sufficient to meet the need projected to be yielded from the combined developments. A 2FE primary school will need to be at least 19,000sqm. Affordable and Social housing statistically generates a higher number of pupils than market housing.

Should the housing mix change through the planning process, then the projected pupil yield will change, and the planned provision amended with it. There is a small margin between the current projected primary pupil yield and the provision of a 2FE primary school, that of 15 places. To future proof the primary provision on the Wisley Airfield Surrey County Council Education Infrastructure Justification Proposed Development of Land at Wisley Airfield, Hatch Lane, Ockham, GU23 6NU development, it is proposed that the primary school have the ability to expand to 3FE if required. A 3FE primary school would need to be at least 25,000sqm.

### Secondary

The School Organisation Plan 2022 to 2032, in line with DfE expectation on school size, states that in order for a secondary school to be sustainable, a provision will need to 'be four forms of entry (600 places) or larger'. The secondary pupil yield for the combined developments on Wisley Airfield including the Wisley Airfield development, the Land north of Ockham Lane and the Land at Bridge End Farm is 279 pupils. This is not sufficient to maintain a secondary provision on the Wisley Airfield site.

As a result, if a secondary school were to be opened on the Wisley Airfield site, a further 321 pupils would be required to travel onto the Wisley Airfield development in

order to make a sustainable secondary education provision. Therefore, it is considered to be more sustainable for secondary aged pupils to travel to one or more existing local provisions rather than for pupils to travel onto the development to sustain a secondary school.

4b For this development, in accordance with the requirements of Guildford Local Plan Policy A35, and note (10) therein, Surrey County Council would request a contribution of £5,741,230 towards secondary education infrastructure, which will provide full time places for the 240 children forecast to be yielded from the development site, in the Guildford, Elmbridge, Mole Valley or Woking areas. Surrey County Council have yet to determine the location of the secondary education provision, that would be funded by the secondary contribution.

Surrey County Council's Education Place Planning Team are currently considering a number of options and scenarios for where and importantly when the projected pupils yielded from the Wisley Airfield development will be accommodated within the current secondary educational landscape. Due to the geography of the Wisley Airfield development, the contributions obtained from the developments would be used to provide the necessary additional secondary school places within an existing school or schools situated in Guildford, Elmbridge, Mole Valley or Woking boroughs and districts.

**Clare Curran**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning**  
**31 October 2023**