

Children's Social Care Update:

Progress in Children's Services: The Council's commitment to children's services through the Transformation programmes is delivering positive outcomes and fostering creative solutions. Our leadership team and staff are prepared and motivated to demonstrate the progress we have made and our commitment to supporting enhanced outcomes for children and families in Surrey.

- **Continuous Service Improvement Work:** Building on progress from the last ILACS in 2022 and subsequent positive JTAL in 2023 and the Focused Visit earlier this year, the Achieving Excellence forum has been identifying evidence of effective practice, strong partnerships, and driving staff engagement with our drive for continuous improvement.
- **Progress Since 2022:** We anticipate recognition from inspectors of our strengths, progress made, and innovation in key areas such as approaches to Pre-Birth assessment and planning, our recent work within the area of extrafamilial harm and the introduction of the Intensive Family Support Service. We also recognise that there are still things we must be better at doing and Achieving Excellence and other performance management forums are actively addressing these areas.
- **Improvement in Performance:** Remedial activity has led to improvement, an example being the sustained performance improvement in the Assessment Service, the consistently good performance across Looked After Children and Care Leaving and the very positive gradings given to most of our children's homes. Many KPIs across the system are now aligning with or exceeding benchmarks for "Good" statistical neighbours and national comparators. Sustainability is a tension across the system, but progress is evident month by month.
- **Focus Visit Feedback:** The Focus Visit earlier this year, which looked at our Child in Need and Child Protection interventions, identified areas of practice improvement and reinforced our understanding of the improvements made to service delivery.

Creation of the Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS): The IFSS is now operating, supporting families with interconnected needs. Through this service, the early help offer in Surrey is expanded to bridge the gap between existing targeted support and statutory services. It enables families to receive help in their homes and communities, accessing intensive and specialist support that meets their needs and avoids unnecessary escalation. Of note, there has been a reduction in statutory (Child In Need and child Protection) plans this year compared to last year. These could be early signs that investing in the intensive support service is reducing the demand for statutory services, however it is early days and requires monitoring. Feedback from all families supported by IFSS is sought during and following the period of support.

Rebranding of Early Help as Families First: Early help is a system rather than delivered by children's services or commissioned services through SCC The Early Help Partnership Board agreed to brand early help to reflect this and agreed on Families First as it has a national footprint in the Family Path finders. Families First principles; these are for organisations throughout Surrey to adopt and use in their work to enable there to be a consistent approach to supporting families and putting their needs first.

Adolescent Service: In Family Resilience & Safeguarding, the Targeted Youth Support Service and the Safeguarding Adolescent Service have been integrated and aligned with Police Areas, into North, East & West Adolescent teams. Additionally, the formation of a Central Hub to focus on the specific vulnerabilities of adolescents and their families experience to build capacity & expertise across the practice system and have a timely response for children in crisis.

Colleagues in the Police, Health & the Adolescent Service have been instrumental in developing cross-partnership evolution and change in the response to children experiencing extra familial harm & contextual safeguarding. This approach acknowledges that children's experiences are deeply influenced by their environments. By understanding the contexts in which they live, we can better identify and address the risks they face and ensure our interventions are effective and reduce harm.

The Adolescent Service supports and helps protect adolescent children and their families facing complex challenges and where extra-familial risks or harms are the key concern impacting safety. We recognise that adolescent children and their families require different responses, the Adolescent Service will work across targeted, intensive and statutory domains within the continuum of support, with a strong focus on preventing escalation. They will provide intervention where there are multiple and complex needs and the impact of which will increase their likelihood of entering care or custody or suffering extra-familial harm and where the adolescent is the primary concern.

Corporate Parenting:

Children's Residential Homes: Following the Capital investment of £34 million for expansion of our in-house Surrey children's homes capital portfolio and renovation development funding for two of our existing homes, 2023-2024 has been a busy year as we improved our practice and expanded the residential estate.

Over the past 3 years, Capital Projects have been working closely with Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFLL) strategy to deliver a portfolio of new children's homes and family contact centres, in accordance with the Corporate Parenting Strategy. Our children's homes are developing in line with the ambitions of the Surrey Sufficiency Strategy. This programme has seen the successful delivery of three brand new children's homes across the county, with two more coming on stream as well as our replacement home where the current building is no longer suitable.



Ofsted Outcomes: Across our estate of eleven registered children's homes, we are very proud of our stabilised and improved Ofsted ratings across SCC's portfolio, with all homes now being graded as Good and two Outstanding.

This reflects the great work that has been achieved with significant steps to improve our recruitment, retention and core practice within SCC-run children's homes. By focusing on recruitment and retention in SCC-run children's homes this has strengthened the children's residential workforce as a priority group under the Recruitment and Retention Transformation. This has enabled us to improve recruitment and reduce vacancy levels in this critical area of work, including the positive outcome that all active SCC owned and managed children's homes currently have permanent Registered Managers in post.

In addition to children's homes, SCC is also part-way through a capital programme to deliver 28 additional beds of care leaver accommodation in Surrey. The first four of these (four self-contained flats) went live in March 2024, delivered via an innovative partnership between SCC, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Homes England and a local registered social landlord. In addition, we have purchased three (with a further existing SCC property under consideration) of six planned shared houses as "move-on" accommodation through the Group Living for Care Leavers (GLCL) project.

Fostering improvement journey: The Foster Carers' Charter is a significant commitment from the Council (as Corporate Parent and the provider of the regulated Fostering Service) to the foster carers approved and supported by Surrey County Council. Based on principles developed by the Fostering Network, it sets out detailed expectations for how the Council and foster carers will work together to enable good quality care for children.

Fostering Delivery headlines

- Expansion of the **Mockingbird programme** to better support Surrey foster carers, through **DfE funding of £105k** we are expecting to have 5 constellations in place by December 2024.
- **Transformation funding** initiated Fostering Reviewing Officers & Support Workers, providing support to carers and children to stabilise placements & increase retention.
- **Promotion** of Kinship and Family first approaches including **strengthening our guidance and support offer** for families who are granted a Special Guardianship Order.
- **Recruitment:** Redesign of fostering website, increase of online digital marketing and partnership with **20 South-East local authorities** in creation of a **pilot recruitment hub through DfE funding**
- Creation of the **step-down project** within SCC, following on from the Big Fostering Partnership Social Impact Bond pilot.
- **Strengthened regional collaboration** through the South-Central Independent Fostering Framework, and active engagement with Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers (NAFP).

- Improved **relationships with independent fostering agencies** through a new provider forum, and increased individual engagement to try to identify innovative ways of working

Promotional fostering video: [Everything - A Fostering Film \(2024\)](#).

The fostering film premiere and information session **‘Everything’ launched on 14th November**. It was launched nationally in October. Fostering can mean everything to those involved; that is the message of a powerful new fostering film from over 100 councils. In Surrey, our ambition is for at least 30 new foster families across the county to join us by the end of March 2025, and this event is part of our plans to achieve that.

The ‘Everything’ project shows the long-term impact that fostering can have, with relationships between carers and children lasting well into adulthood. Every council wants to recruit more foster carers, and by collaborating to produce this emotionally powerful film, we can show people how rewarding and life-changing being a foster carer can be.

Care Leavers Covenant: In March 2023 Surrey Signed the Care Leaver Covenant - a national inclusion programme that supports care leavers aged 16 to 25 to live independently, funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and encourages local authorities, voluntary organisations and private sector businesses to sign up and make pledges to support care leavers in England.



As a Partner of the Care Leaver Covenant, we have agreed to support and facilitate the Covenant's primary aim, by promoting opportunities and offers to care leavers and raising awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant amongst our networks. Importantly, we understand our organisation's role as part of a universal family in which care-experienced young people can benefit from our support in making a successful transition to adulthood.

Since signing the Care Leaver Covenant, we have consulted with care leavers to develop a set of six priorities to be implemented through phase one, which include:

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

Some examples of these priorities we have achieved so far:

The Local Offer - A dedicated external webpage is now available with up-to-date progress and information for CYP, practitioners & external audience [Surrey local offer for care leavers - Surrey County Council](#).

Surrey Heartlands (NHS) has a process to recruit up to 25 care leavers with support from Career Matters.

Offer pre-paid prescriptions for care leavers on low income or those with medical issues.

Each Care Leaver receives an air fryer from Corporate Parenting as a gift as they embark on living independently; Upon signing their first tenancy agreement, this ‘cost of living’ project is funded entirely through sponsorships and donations from local businesses and social value schemes.

Social Events: The CPB sponsors annual events where members, DCS and Senior officers champion and support by volunteering at these important annual events.

We rely entirely on sponsorship and donations to fund such events, largely through Social Value from our many suppliers. We had fantastic sponsorship from our many suppliers to make this year's event's both possible and memorable.

The Children's Summer Event – A family fun day for all Surrey's Children Looked After & foster families including foster carers own birth children/grandchildren, as well as CLA in our residential children's homes. The annual summer event is held in July for all our CLA of all abilities and brings together our families with emphasis on appreciation to all our foster carers.



The popular event had many fun activities for children including the all-important fire engine, a climbing wall, reptiles for those brave enough and our much-loved therapy dog, Bertie! Foster carers enjoyed a relaxing wellbeing area to unwind and network with other foster carers, whilst the tombola proved to be a big hit with every child winning a prize!

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Care Leavers event - In support of National Care Leavers Week, Corporate Parenting and the Leaving Care service held an event in celebration of our Care Leavers. Providing information on higher education from Surrey University, work experience, training and apprenticeship opportunities from the NHS and Ringway Highway services as well as mentoring support information from Goal 17. In addition to the many activity stalls was the all-important raffle. This proved to be another successful event.

SEND Update:

Ofsted/CQC Improvement Plan – progress update

Despite a slight reduction in new EHC needs assessment requests, the total number of EHCPs continues to rise, reaching 15,818 in October 2024. Surrey's Additional Needs and Disabilities Partnership Improvement Plan, developed in response to the 2023 Ofsted/CQC inspection, focuses on six key areas. The plan aims to address inconsistencies in SEND service experiences across Surrey, enhancing support through clear actions, evaluation, and collaboration with families and partners.

Impact and Outcomes:

- Strengthen strategic evaluation to measure impact on children and young people's outcomes.
- Actions include developing an evaluation framework, a toolkit for practitioners, and revising KPIs for systematic monitoring. The goal is to hold partners accountable for measurable improvements.

Communication and Relational Working:

- Improve communication with parents and carers to foster trust and inclusion in decision-making.
- Actions include creating a new communication plan, co-production of clear protocols, and training staff on relational practices to enhance family involvement and satisfaction.

Waiting Times and Quality:

- Reduce delays in health assessments, needs assessments, and EHCPs, ensuring timely support.
- Actions include implementing an EHCP recovery plan, improving health assessment wait times, refining the neurodevelopmental pathway, and establishing a quality framework for EHCPs.

Alternative Provision (AP):

- Review and expand the alternative provision offer to better meet students' needs and ensure minimum levels of provision.
- Actions involve enhancing AP capacity (see section below on capital and AP), monitoring provider quality and levels of provision to individual pupils, and improving inclusion strategies to prevent placement breakdowns, with AP provision aligned to EHC plans and tracked for effectiveness.

Governance and Accountability:

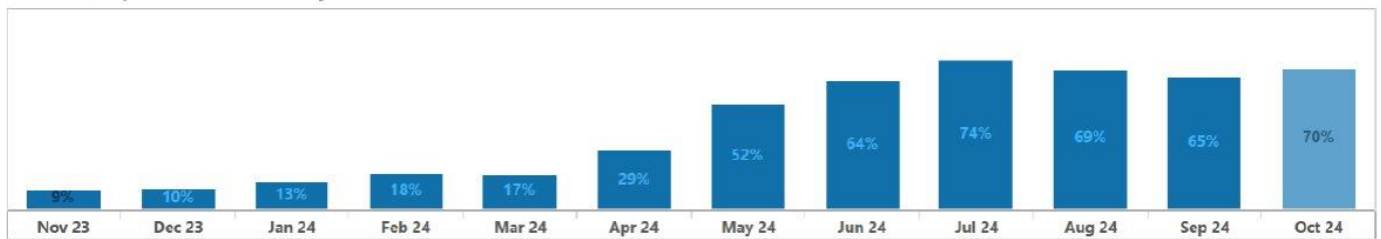
- Strengthen governance to support improvement and accountability.
- Actions include revising governance structures, monitoring action progress via a dashboard, and establishing mechanisms for feedback from families and stakeholders.

The improvement plan, which has been enhanced by two additional priorities from the AND strategy relating to inclusion (in mainstream schools and in the community) and the development of early intervention and support for children with AND, is currently on track.

The EHCP recovery plan has improved the timeliness of EHCNAs and annual reviews, health have improved waiting times for therapies, and the quality of EHC plans is also improving. Our alternative provision offer has been strengthened through a new contract with providers, and fewer young people are receiving less than 15 hours provision. Our work on communication and relational working with families still has some distance to go to address the shortfalls identified in the inspection, but this remains a priority area and focus for improvement. SCC is due to report progress to the DfE in January 2025.

EHCP Recovery Plan Progress: In October of this year, we issued 70% of EHCP's within the statutory 20-week timeframe and have completed the backlog of all overdue assessments that had built up prior to May this year. We aim to maintain an average of 70% for the remainder of the Autumn term.

EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



We experienced a slight dip in timeliness in August and September due to the impact of school closures over the summer, which limit the ability of schools to provide assessment information and complete consultation for school places and Educational Psychologists to visit schools to undertake assessments and provide timely advice.

Work continues to reduce the backlog of overdue annual review actions. As of the 4th of November, 75.8% of all annual reviews were up to date, compared with 25% in July 2023. Annual reviews of vulnerable learners continue to be a priority with 84% of now up to date. We have already reached the target of 75% of all annual reviews being up to date by December 2025 and continue to work to sustain and build upon this alongside reaching our target of 100% of vulnerable learners' reviews being up to date by the end of December.

Quality of EHCPs remains a key point of focus for the SEND teams with a nationally recognised audit tool being used to quality assure new plans monthly. The majority of plans issued in September 2024 were (86%) satisfactory and accurately describe need and education provision required to meet need, with 56% of all plans receiving a good or outstanding grade in September 2024. The target of achieving 50% of EHCPs with good and outstanding judgements for all sections of an EHCP by end of December has now been met.

This work has been supported by a £15m investment which has enabled additional staff to complete the backlog of statutory work and develop early intervention support. The enhanced early intervention offer alongside clearer guidance for schools and parents about the resources schools should ordinarily provide without requiring an EHC needs assessment has led to an overall reduction of 5% in requests for assessment last academic year when compared to the year before.

SEND Communication: While EHCP statutory work is now being completed at performance levels above national averages, there continues to remain concerns around communications from the SEND teams. This typically reflects staff capacity to promptly respond to parents and schools and there has been an end-to-end review of the EHCP process which includes ensuring more efficient processes which will build capacity and a business case for additional core staffing to enable more time for proactive, person-centred communications.

There is a communications protocol in place in the SEND teams which has been scrutinised by the audit team, which sets the expectations for returning emails and telephone calls, out of office messaging and case-holding hand over communications.

A SEND communications team has been established to receive and manage calls from parents and schools and to undertake proactive communications. This remains a key area for improvement and work continues at pace.

Surrey's Safety Valve Agreement: The Safety Valve Agreement is a financial arrangement between the Department for Education (DfE) and local authorities with significant Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits. It aims to support these authorities in reducing high needs funding (HNF) pressures through a structured plan to achieve sustainable budgets, with the DfE providing additional funding on the condition that specific cost-reduction and system-change targets are met. In Surrey's Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE, the key components include: Deficit Reduction Targets, Increase in Local Provision, Enhanced Early Intervention, Support, and Inclusion Initiatives, Cost-Containment and Efficiency Measures and Regular Monitoring and Reporting.

This agreement seeks to help Surrey create a sustainable funding model for high needs support, while also ensuring efficient use of resources and increased local capacity for SEND services. Surrey has challenges meeting our Safety Valve financial targets due to continuing increased need and demand, rising placement costs, delays in additional specialist provision coming on-line, and a range of external issues. Key contributing factors include: Rising EHCP Demand, High NMIS Use, Rising Costs, Tribunal Pressures, Alternative Provision and Lagging Cost-Containment Efforts

New Risks in 2025 are the potential increases in independent school fees due to VAT changes, loss of charitable status, and higher National Insurance contributions for school staff all of which may drive more EHCP applications and raise costs further.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programmes Update: Surrey County Council's SEND and AP capital programmes (2019/20-2027/28) are aligned with the county-wide adopted Inclusion and Additional Needs Partnership Strategy objectives and sufficiency plans, national reform, Surrey's Safety Valve Agreement with the Department for Education, and evolving local area improvement plans to best meet the needs of Surrey resident children with additional needs and disabilities in the long term.

Highlights: As of November 2024, 49 of 81 construction projects have been completed, with 32 projects remaining to complete by 31 August 2028 and £94.2m investment to date.

- Nine SEND construction projects and one AP construction project are in contract on school sites.
- 12 committed construction projects are in development and progressing to target milestones, of which four are due to have planning applications determined between November and December 2024.
- 10 committed construction projects are planned, of which three are deliverable by the Department for Education's central route Special Free Schools Programme, awaiting Ministerial 'value for money considerations' reported by Secretary of State for Education on 22 October 2024.
- The capital programmes created [More than 260 new specialist school places for Surrey's children with additional needs and disabilities](#) for academic year 2024/25, increasing Surrey's maintained specialist education estate by 35% from around 3,320 places when the programmes started in 2019 to approximately 4,500 places now.
- The programmes remain on track to complete a further 170 additional places for academic year 2025/26.
- After two years of hard work, planning and development, in partnership between Surrey County Council (SCC) and Bourne Education Trust with Freemantles School in Woking, the Department for Education Regions Group and Ofsted, Hopescourt School, Surrey's flagship Net Zero Carbon Special Free School opened on its temporary site in September 2024 and works started on the permanent site in November 2024. The temporary location in West Molesey will serve as home for Hopescourt School until the permanent site in Walton-on-Thames is completed in Spring 2026.

Hopescourt School in Walton-upon-Thames: Value £28m



Image of construction vehicles working on stripping the site's topsoil and ground-cutting on Hopescourt School's permanent site in Walton-upon-Thames

Recent Handovers:

Stepgates Community School SEN Unit expansion: Value £2.26m (29 place accommodation and primary provision for children with complex speech, language and communication needs aged 4-11 years)



Image of the exterior of the new timber clad three classroom SEN Unit block at Stepgates Community School nearing completion in Chertsey.

St Matthews CofE Primary School SEN Unit expansion: Value £1.8m (13 place accommodation and primary provision for autistic children aged 4-11 years)



Image of the SEN Unit block and the new all-weather external play and gardening areas at St Matthews Church of England Primary School in Redhill.

Freemantles School special school satellite site, Ripley campus: Value £1m (54 place accommodation and infant provision for autistic children aged 4-7 years with co-occurring severe learning difficulties)

Woking High School SEN Unit expansion: Value £1.78m (20 place accommodation and secondary provision for students aged 11-16 years with visual impairments)

The Abbey School expansion: Value £7.43m (Weydon Multi Academy Trust delivery under Self-Delivery Contract: 60 place accommodation and secondary provision for students aged 11-16 years with moderate learning difficulties and co-occurring needs including autism and speech, language and communication needs)



Image of the new sports hall, changing rooms and teaching block extension, linking to the existing school building at The Abbey School in Farnham

Philip Southcote School special school satellite site at Epsom & Ewell High School: Value £1m (20 place accommodation and secondary provision for 20 students aged 11-16 years with moderate learning difficulties and co-occurring needs including autism and speech, language and communication needs)

Bramley Oak Academy condition and suitability works: Value £2.65m (Creating fit for purpose accommodation for 61 children aged 5-11 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs prior to expansion)

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In Contract: Ten further construction projects are underway on school sites, which will provide permanent accommodation for 373 new specialist places and improve 109 existing places in schools across Surrey.

Alternative Provision Schools

Fordway Centre rebuild in Ashford: Value £6.36m



Image of the crane in position lifting the prefabricated roof panels from the ground to the roof at Fordway Centre in Ashford.

Specialist Schools

Walton Leigh School in Hersham: Value £0.95m

Woodfield School in Merstham: Value £8m



Image of the new 6th Form block at Woodfield School with external landscaping completed in Merstham

Pond Meadow School in Guildford: Value: Value £7.3m



Image of the latter stages of the works to the hydrotherapy pool area at Pond Meadow School in Guildford which included new floor tiles, new UPVC panels to the walls and new showers, as well as painting and decorating throughout

Philip Southcote School in Runnymede: Value £11m

Specialist provision in Mainstream Schools

Ashford Park Primary School in Staines: Value £3.14m

Dovers Green Primary School in Reigate: Value £2.73m

Epsom Downs Primary School in Epsom: Value £3m

Guildford County School in Guildford: Value £3.33m

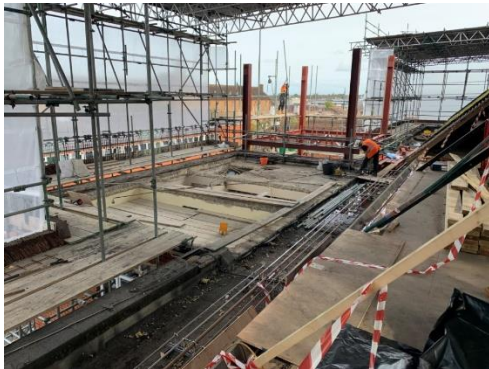


Image of the steel columns that form the structure of the new courtyard infill for first and second floor classrooms at Guildford County School in Guildford

Home to School Travel Assistance (H2ST): The team's Summer Review was highly successful, primarily due to a structured approach to the summer tendering process. This methodology enabled officers to be assigned schools earlier than in previous years and facilitated the timely setup of transport arrangements. As a result, on the first day of term, all under-16 transport applications submitted by the July 31 deadline were confirmed. Additionally, only one post-16 application where transport arrangements were required remained outstanding, which was attributed to the absence of a named placement on the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

During the peak summer period and into the new academic year, the team has consistently met its application SLAs while ensuring that communication remains clear and timely. Notably, they have successfully delivered confirmation of transport arrangements at least seven days prior to the start of the term for families who applied before the 31 July deadline. Where they were unable to set up transport in time due to a late application submission families were offered a Personal Travel Budget.

H2ST Communication strategies have undergone significant enhancements, emphasising clarity and responsiveness:

- **Enhanced Family Communication:** Families received timely and clear communications at least seven days prior to the start of each term, effectively reducing uncertainty and minimising complaints.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Regular interactions were introduced with key stakeholders, including Family Voice Surrey and ATLAS, ensuring their feedback was integral to service improvements. The introduction of one-on-one sessions with families marked a first for the service and yielded positive outcomes.
- **Website Updates:** Continuous updates to the website have streamlined access to accurate and timely information for families, significantly decreasing the volume of direct inquiries.
- **Rapid Response Times:** The team has improved response times to queries from families, members, and internal colleagues, contributing to a notable reduction in complaint volumes and calls.
- **Interdepartmental Collaboration:** Enhanced communication between departments has led to improved coordination and service delivery.

The enhancement in communication is evidenced by the volume of calls received by the Contact Centre regarding Transport. During the peak period from mid-August to mid-September, it was observed that there was a significant reduction in calls, with a decrease of 27% compared to the same timeframe last year. From the end of Sept increased call volumes had reduced to normal 'non-peak' levels. This again was earlier than in previous years.

H2ST Complaints: Complaints have continued to be much lower than at the same time last year – this is due to the improvements in communication combined with the team meeting the SLAs for service delivery. For the period Aug-Oct 24 (when most Complaints and Enquiries arise) there was a 57% reduction in complaints and a 28% reduction in enquiries compared to the same period the previous year.

H2ST Financial position: The 2024/25 forecast outturn position has improved in month 7, with the reported pressure reducing by £0.4m to £7m and the reported risks reducing from £1.8m down to £0.3m. The forecast includes provision for further growth in pupils and rates through to the end of the year.

Family Voice Survey: The team have worked with Family Voice to survey the experiences of families with children with SEN needs. This survey went live on 21st October for 4 weeks.

SSTAT Parent Survey: The team has developed a survey to gather feedback from parents regarding their experiences with the Surrey School Travel & Assessment team. This survey will remain open until 6th December, and the insights gained will be utilised to enhance the service continually.

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Expansion of Early Years Entitlements: As from September 2024 all children from the age of 9 months to school age are now entitled to 15 hours per week funded Early Education.

In Surrey as of this week 8283 codes have been issued to Surrey families. This exceeds the number previously estimated by the Department for Education (DfE). The Early Years Teams are supporting the sector to expand to accommodate the increased demand and to ensure the quality of provision and to support the sector to be inclusive. At the moment there are sufficient places for families to access their entitlement. Surrey County Council is providing grant funding opportunities to further expand the sector to meet the increased demand when the next phase of the expansion is launched in September 2025 when the entitlement increases to 30 hours per week. This is in addition to the capital funding that DfE have announced for schools to develop Early Years provision.

The Early Years Teams have a key focus on supporting children with additional needs and disabilities and our Early Years sector are telling us that this support is highly valued. We are tailoring our future support to ensure that our youngest children have access to good quality, inclusive education in their local community with access to additional funding and resources when needed.

Adult Education:

Learner participation: 8,100 adults participated in one of Surrey Adult Learning's 850 courses across the seven centres or in remote learning in 2023/24 which was 500 more than the previous year. The Autumn term participation levels in 2024/25 are the same as 2023/24. In the last year, but there has been an increase in ESOL, maths and English learners learning for a qualification from entry level to GCSE. A digital dippers course has started in Staines for learners who were registered with the DWP. Initially it was for learners over the age of 50 but this year has expanded to any learner over the age of 19.

Supported Learning Awards Ceremony: In September, we held an awards ceremony for supported learners who gained an entry level award for learning, employability and progression into employment or further training.



Gordon 'I really enjoyed the course; my tutors were great. I would like to work in a café as I like serving and speaking to customers. I have enrolled on other courses and am continuing to look for a job in a café.'

GCSEs: SAL learners had a 95% achievement rate in their English GCSEs. This was up from 93.5% in the previous year and well above the national average of 77.2%. In maths, SAL learners' achievement rate of 96% was up from 91% and 15% above the national average of 81%.

Attendance rates in GCSEs for English and maths and matches the national average. Attendance is a focus for Ofsted and there is a priority to increase attendance levels

and improving the understanding of reasons behind non-attendance. Adult learners have many other responsibilities such as employment and family commitments which can override learning.

Apprenticeships: SAL's apprentices' achievement rate was 79.1%, up from 70.4% in the previous academic year.

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