

MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

8 DECEMBER 2020

AMENDMENT OF MOTION

Item 8 (i)

Amendment by Mrs Mary Lewis (Cobham) to the motion standing in the name of Mrs Fiona White

(additional words underlined and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes:

That it recognises that child poverty, especially ~~child food poverty~~, including food, fuel, digital, housing and transport poverty which impact the whole family, is a systemic problem, not a temporary one which can be solved with short term measures.

It further recognises that the key objective that no-one is left behind must start with our youngest children.

It recognises ~~too that breakfast clubs and other on-site initiatives delivered through schools make a huge difference not just to pupil wellbeing but also to the quality of learning and other outcomes.~~ that system-wide initiatives delivered through early years settings, schools, health settings, family centres and elsewhere make a huge difference not just to child wellbeing but also to the quality of learning and other outcomes.

Therefore resolves to:

- ~~1. Encourage all schools to set up breakfast clubs by making a one-off capital allocation to those schools which require it to amend premises or provide equipment, to enable schools to make breakfast provision.~~
2. Ask officers to produce a report on child poverty in Surrey to assess data from the Community Impact Assessment and on-going work with the DWP, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Surrey Welfare Rights Unit and the Community Foundation for Surrey to produce a report on poverty in Surrey, so Council can fully understand the complexity, scale and impact on children of poverty in Surrey, including the wider cohort of families now experiencing poverty.
- ~~3. Consider setting aside in the next revenue budget sums to enable an action plan falling out of that report which could meaningfully address the impact of child poverty on learning and wellbeing and~~
4. Lobby government to consider reforms to the welfare system which address the fundamental causes of child poverty, such as the failures of the Universal Credit system and the inadequacy of the minimum wage to continue to fund local government appropriately to mitigate the social effects of Covid-19, especially those affecting children and families.

5. Support the work of the One Surrey Growth Board in seeking to support post-Covid economic recovery and to provide the quality jobs and training that can offer a long-term solution to the issue.
6. Support the new Executive Director of Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture to lead a Council wide response to the report on child poverty in Surrey and to address the issue of poor outcomes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, including working with schools to provide an Inclusive curriculum that supports the most disadvantaged and developing the Helping Families Early initiative with partners, built on the principle that 'everyone can do something'.
7. Support the Leader as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to continue its work in addressing and prioritising this issue.
8. Support the First 1000 Days initiative with Health/County Council integrated commissioning to improve life chances of babies and young children (now in its second year).
9. Welcome the £2.2 million winter package funding received by Surrey CC from central government and the work being done with partners to use it to target support to those in most immediate need, alleviating food and fuel poverty.