

MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 MARCH 2022

AMENDMENT OF MOTION

Item 8 (ii)

Amendment by Jonathan Essex (Redhill East) to the motion standing in the name of Jeremy Webster

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes:

- The Ofsted inspection report on children’s services in Surrey published on 9 March 2022.
- That the overall effectiveness of our services is judged to have improved since the last inspection in 2018 and acknowledges that Surrey’s leaders have achieved significant change in that time and that they are implementing a clear and comprehensive improvement programme.

This Council further notes:

- That this improvement is described as “...a strong foundation to strive for excellence.”; but that this programme of improvement needs to continue in order for our services to be seen as good. The findings of the inspectors are entirely consistent with the self-assessment audits and the inspection team confirmed they had confidence that the current improvement plan was not only the right one but that it was being appropriately implemented.
- In particular that:

“Children and their families benefit from effective early help services.”

“The children’s single point of access service responds effectively to most contacts and referrals,” and “Most assessments are thorough...”

“The implementation of the local authority’s practice model has significantly strengthened work to tackle domestic and substance abuse...”

“Many children are successfully diverted from care, as social workers work effectively with parents and risks to children are reduced” and “When children go missing from home, they receive timely return home interviews which lead to insightful assessments of vulnerability...”

“Senior managers have expanded the capacity of the inclusion team to respond to the increased number of children who are missing education or moving to elective home education. These children and young people are supported appropriately and according to their individual circumstances.”

In light of the positive progress made as outlined above, this Council resolves to:

- I. Re-affirm its commitment to implementing the further improvements recommended in the report as our highest priority, and that the Children’s Services improvement journey **targets** ~~will continue until Surrey **to** has achieved a level of provision that **is classed** can be seen as **Outstanding by Ofsted** outstanding~~ in every area of children’s services.
- II. Extend its thanks to the children’s services workforce, who carry out their roles with pride, and seek to do their best for children and families in Surrey, particularly over the difficult period of the pandemic; and asks members of the Council to reflect upon their own role in future improvement work through scrutiny and challenge and by developing our community leadership of the wider children’s system in Surrey.

Secunder: **TBC**