

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Denise Turner-Stewart

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Leader, Customer and Communities

**Your Fund Surrey (YFS):** This has recently had its third anniversary with 35 large projects having been funded to-date, equating to a total of £17m in value. Many of the funded projects are under construction, while a number are now open to the public. The two smaller, Member-led community funds remain popular and well used, with communities seeing real, tangible benefits. Your Councillor Community Fund closed for this year at the end of January, with almost 400 funded projects across all areas of the county, with £1.3m allocated to projects to support local communities. Members spent 99% of their allocation, which is a reflection on their commitment to supporting communities in their own areas, and on the team who worked with them to process the applications. Due to the success of YFS projects, Members have been allocated an additional £50,000 for small community projects, increasing each Member's allocation to £100,000. The number of residents benefitting from the funding is immense and varies from the refurbishment of a community building benefitting the whole community, to specific projects benefitting some of the most vulnerable residents in the county.

**Libraries:** The libraries' transformation programme is progressing well and includes refurbishments and mini refurbishments that are underway across the county to provide modern, flexible, and multi-use libraries, as well as Super Access which is being rolled out over the next six months, following the launch at Horley Library in January. As part of the transformation work, we are scoping a programme to roll out digital screens in our 52 libraries which will be used as an engagement tool to promote library events and activities, information about local services, and news about Surrey County Council promotions and campaigns to our residents.

We are also planning to provide a hot drink facility in each library, although the facility will depend on the location of the library, we aim to create a welcoming area for customers to enjoy using and increase the amount of time they spend in the library. It will include a full café offer anticipated for the larger hub sites, to an alternative self-service/coffee cart option for other library sites and will enhance the libraries core offer for our residents.

**Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE):** The Council has invested £100,000 into the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) 'Strategic Transformation Fund'. With match-funding, this creates a total of up to £200,000 to support VCSE organisations to review their sustainability and develop new business models to help them better achieve their purpose in the face of challenges. Initial discussions with representatives of the VCSE sector and the VCSE Alliance have proved positive in terms of the appetite to engage with this work. Work is also underway to identify SCC grants that could be managed more effectively by CFS on behalf of the council, thereby securing beneficial match-funding for recipients. An approach has been received from representatives of the Lord Lieutenant's Charities' Working Group to consider the potential for rationalising several SCC-related charities to make better, targeted use of the funds held by them. 'Sparks Funding' of £160,000 is being provided to VCSE Infrastructure organisations enabling them to offer small grants for community-led activity in the 21 key neighbourhoods, a good example being to support activities by the Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust - including career support sessions, English tuition sessions, a friendship cafe, computer tuition sessions and interactive wellbeing sessions.

**Customer Transformation Programme:** This has now been initiated, where we are designing how we need to work together differently in the future to better meet our residents' needs. We are aiming to deliver improved outcomes for residents, as well as a more efficient, innovative council, and at the centre of this is a major overhaul of our customer-facing service functions to deliver improved services to residents. Partners have now joined us with experience to help develop this approach, and will be working with us for 12 weeks, where we will focus on testing out new approaches for activity in two key areas; the pathways and processes between the Police and Adult Social Care teams, and the work we do to respond to residents in relation to highway enquiries. We will need to embrace the use of new technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and embrace innovation to enable us to deliver the best experience for residents.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Jordan Beech

**PORTFOLIO:** Customer and Communities

**Arts & Culture:** The Cultural Services team recently submitted a bid to Arts Council England for £400,000 to support the development of the cultural hub in the new Staines library, with a focus on youth leadership, and a programme to support progression into the creative industries sectors. As part of that work and building on the success of the Youth and Arts Festival in 2023 in Redhill and Staines, that reached 1,481 young people, we are now planning a Surrey Heath Youth and Arts Festival for Autumn 2024.

A key aim of this work is to advocate for creative skills development through local cultural engagement. Surrey Arts Music Team continues to deliver the Youth Music funded 'I Speak Music: Next Generation' programme with refugee communities and is currently working with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to deliver a programme of activity within a women's refuge, using music as a tool for community cohesion and health and wellbeing. The Music Hub also aims to widen access by offering financial support for instrumental and vocal music lessons, and an instrument loan scheme for school children, holiday courses and Special Education programmes, and music projects for refugees.

**Surrey History Centre:** The centre has hosted a visit by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Edinburgh on 31 January 2024, which involved a tour of the centre, including the search room, conservation unit, Archaeology unit and met with volunteers and staff, before viewing documents related to Bagshot Park and Women's Institute.

**Active Surrey:** This has secured place investment from Sport England into Stanwell, which is in the bottom 10% nationally for inactivity levels. This partnership will focus on strengthening local systems and communities with the aim of increasing activity levels in the local area. Bookings are open for the Easter holiday activity and food delivery. With Department for Education funding, we will be making 12,834 places available at a range of holiday camps, countywide, for children on free school meals. Each camp includes daily activity and a hot meal.

Specsavers Surrey Youth Games is now also open for bookings. Targeting inactive young people in disadvantaged communities across nine boroughs and districts, young people can sign up for two months of free coaching and equipment across seven different activities from inclusive dance to judo, boccia to girls touch rugby. Active Surrey, in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, has now established 27 Friday Night Projects countywide. Running in youth, leisure, and community centres; these offer young people a safe space to meet with friends and enjoy a range of activities at a very low cost. We have just established a SEND specific Friday Night Project in Reigate. Plans are progressing to pilot the loan of bikes in two libraries in Surrey. The bikes will be taken from Surrey's recycling centres, refurbished, and made available for local residents who might otherwise not have access to a bike.

**Our Registration & Nationality Service:** This service remains one of the busiest in the country, supporting people at key life moments and offering a high quality, efficient and responsive service. Appointments to register births are being offered to customers within one day and 97% of births are being registered within the statutory 42-day timescale; the highest level since March 2020.

The digital self-service offer continues to grow, offering more choice and flexibility for customers. For example, citizenship ceremonies can now be booked online, with 394 bookings made since go-live on 1 December 2023 and 98% of couples are now booking their own appointment to give notice of marriage/civil partnership. Customer satisfaction levels are also high, as demonstrated by the feedback from our onsite 'Happy or Not' feedback terminal, which is 98% with many residents commenting on the quality of the experience they received from staff.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Paul Deach

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Cabinet Member to Leader of the Council

It has continued to be a busy time for our communications team as they strive to further enhance communications and drive engagement, to ensure residents are well informed about our vital services. On our core council social media channels alone last month, our content was seen **over half a million times**. Some other recent communications highlights include:

**Surrey Matters improvements:** Surrey Matters is going from strength to strength, with over 200,000 subscribers, and almost 120,000 of those engaged in what we put out. That is a tenth of the county's entire population. We recently signed up all staff with SCC email addresses to the newsletter too, helping them keep up to date with news from across the county. A pop up is live on the council's website which has already generated over 2,000 sign ups and many other initiatives are underway to get more.

In the latest issue, there were over 20,000 clicks on the articles featured, **the highest ever recorded**. Many of these were for articles about the M25 closure and the Vision Zero consultation, which just goes to underline what our residents care about. In fact, the March issue (along with social media posts during the same period) was responsible for an additional 1,614 responses to the [Vision Zero consultation](#) over just one weekend. This is just one example of the impact the newsletter is having with our residents and testament to the hard work the team are putting in. I look forward to helping make those figures even higher this year. While Surrey Matters is the council's flagship newsletter, the team have also been working hard to bring all newsletters under one roof, helping to cross promote all the council's output.

**New targeted email updates:** To ensure residents are well-informed about council services in their areas, I have been working with Environment, Infrastructure and Growth communications colleagues to launch new email updates on services that matter to them the most, starting with the launch 'Your Highways Update' - a localised bulletin for residents about roadworks in their area. Since I last updated Members in January, we have continued to promote sign ups via a range of communication channels, and this has seen subscribers grow by 540% to 7,435, and an open rate of 80% - compared to the average 'good' rate of 25%. Over the coming months we will be exploring new tactics to increase sign ups even further including bus stop advertising, direct mail and QR codes on our highways vehicles.

Other services are set to follow; including Libraries, who are working on a newsletter tailored to the users of each library. Also, in Children, Families, Lifelong Learning we are promoting a new termly update for families of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities, and the practitioners who help them. Updates will provide news and information about children's additional needs and disabilities and details of support services available in Surrey. The first update will be shared with Members shortly. We are also looking into a newsletter aimed at businesses in Surrey to better communicate with this vital audience, to help grow a sustainable economy.

**Highways communications:** Cllr Steve Bax and I are also working with communications colleagues to improve perceptions, and build trust and confidence in our highways service, and this will be a fundamental priority for the communications team over the coming year, working alongside the customer transformation programme. This will deliver a refresh of the highways branding, new resident-focussed materials including postcards, on-site information boards, signage, leaflets, and social media, and a review of vehicle branding. We will also continue to push sign ups to the 'Your Highways Update' bulletin whilst developing this tool to localise content even further, and a full review of all resident correspondence to ensure we are getting this right, first time, for our residents.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** David Lewis

**PORTFOLIO:** Finance and Resources

**Budget:** The Council is forecasting a £4m overspend for the financial year. Drivers are predominantly within Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships (AWHP) and Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFLL); the result of higher prices and continued demand for Adult Social Care and Home to School Travel Assistance. This is a pressure mirrored across local authorities nationally. Cabinet has approved the utilisation of the contingency budget of £20m, although financial pressures continue to worsen the overall position. Cabinet and CLT have agreed a number of spending controls; including in recruitment and procurement, deep dives in AWHP and CFLL, and focusing attention on the SWITCH and Transformation programmes, and other areas where costs could be reduced. The impact of these controls will be closely monitored and should establish stronger financial management behaviours into 2024/25. The Capital Programme Panel has carried out an assurance session to better understand causes of capital slippage to improve both future forecasting and delivery, with several recommendations made.

**Budget & Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):** The Council approved the budget for 2024/25 and the MTFS in February. The financial environment faced by local authorities continues to be challenging with a number of councils declaring S114 notices over recent months, and others in discussion with DLUHC about additional support. SCC is not in this position having worked hard over recent years to improve financial resilience and sustainability. The 2024/25 budget and finances into the medium term, however, remain challenging. The budget includes significant efficiency targets of £54m and we continue to see demand for, and the cost of, services increasing at rates faster than available funding.

**Financial Accounts:** External Auditors, Grant Thornton, presented their Annual Audit Report for 2022/23 to the Audit & Governance Committee in January. This includes commentary on financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. No significant weaknesses were found in any of these areas, and it was noted that SCC had strong arrangements in place and that the findings in this report were in contrast to reports relating to many other local authorities. The 2022/23 accounts were signed off by the Audit & Governance Committee following some national delays. Final technical checks are being undertaken by Grant Thornton with final sign off anticipated within weeks. The council will move from Grant Thornton to Ernst & Young as external auditors, commencing in the next financial year.

**Procurement Plan:** Following months of engagement and preparation with service Directorates, the Annual Procurement Forward Plan (APFP) for 2024/25 was approved by Cabinet on 19 December 2023. This means that Cabinet gave officers Approval to Procure for the 179 procurement projects (over the £213,477 inc. VAT threshold) from 1 April 2024. This marks the beginning of more detailed planning with services, as well as targeted provider engagement, with additional procurement controls being implemented to support the overall programme of spend controls.

**Orbis Internal Audit:** On 5 March, delivery of Surrey's Internal Plan stood at 78.1% of our audit plan completed to at least draft report stage against a year-end target of 90%. We are confident that this performance will meet the expected level by the end of the financial year.

**Victoria Gate and Agile:** SCC formally took possession of Victoria Gate, Woking, on 29 February and our facilities provider, Macro, is on-site. Our Design Team is scoping requirements with a view to minimising the cost of building fit out works to meet council needs and maximise capacity. The broader Estates and Agile teams are jointly re-examining options to service the needs of council offices and maximise savings.

**MySurrey & Aida: MySurrey Chatbot:** Introduced in June 2023, with a transition to a business-as-usual Programme established in December and due to come to an end in May. This will then transition into a permanent arrangement with a Managed Services solution and client function, looking at technical fixes to remove the need for workarounds and optimise the system's performance. Use of Digital, Data and Technology is key to making improvements to our Customer Service. As such, the Chatbot has been deployed as part of the support for the My Surrey system. It has successfully reduced the number of queries logged by answering users' questions instantly; reducing pressure on the support team and allowing them to focus on more complex queries.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Natalie Bramhall

**PORTFOLIO:** Property, Waste, and Infrastructure

**Halsey Garton Property Investments:** Annual income has increased by £1m per annum to £17.1m due to new lettings and regears. Of note:

- **Workshop, Manton Wood:** New 20-year lease to the existing tenant at 20% rental increase.
- **Milton Keynes, Oakgrove Retail Park:** Concluding the rent review with Waitrose at 28% increase.
- **Former Debenhams in Winchester:** First two tenants (Nando's and Five Guys) occupy in May 2024. Strong interest in remaining ground floor restaurant unit with two formal offers.
- **Halsey Garton Residential:** Continues to renew tenancies for twelve months and divest assets, as per policy.
- 28 new tenancies completed with average 5% increase in annual rent.
- Terms agreed for the sale of two assets, with a further five assets due out to market.

### Capital Projects – Delivery:

- **ASC Short Breaks Lakers site, Woking:** Full planning approved. Mobilisation onto site underway, ground works start March 2024. The Squirrels is expected to achieve planning approval in March 2024.
- **ASC Supported Independent Living:** Planning approved for former Coveham Hostel, former Horley Library, and former Manor School. Pre-Construction Services Agreement underway for on-site April 2024.
- **Hubs – Weybridge:** Library decant to commence 2 April, hoarding to commence 8 April. Preferred contractor identified, landscaping continues. Pre-start conditions submitted and validated. **Staines:** Planning approval imminent. Museum has received funding to engage a designer to take forward the integration of the museum into the library space. **Farnham:** Feasibility complete and delivered to service. **Sunbury:** Re-design with reduced scope presented to the services.
- **Libraries – Woking:** Contractor appointment underway. **Epsom and Redhill:** Preferred bidder identified, awaiting approval of procurement report. **Guildford:** Conditions survey completed by Macro 12 February 2024. **Redhill RAAC:** Regular monitoring. Consort House works complete.
- **Fire Station Refurbishments:** Lingfield fire station planning approved. Chobham declined twice by Environmental Agency, delaying planning approvals. Team working through redesign and targeting March 2024 for resubmissions. Reigate due for delegated planning decision in March 2024.
- **SEND / AP:** Unit for visually impaired pupils at Woking High completed February (43 schools now completed). Hopescourt, St Matthews, Dovers Green, Epsom Downs and Stepgates scheduled on site by May 2024. Anticipated that Fordway will be on site by April 2024.
- **Corporate Parenting:** Epsom and Walton Childrens Homes and Shaw family Centre completed. Live projects, Applewood, Cobham, and Dorking.

### Acquisitions: Disposals – Surplus Declarations / Core Disposals:

- Victoria Gate: Acquisition completed 29 February 2024 from Woking Borough Council.
- Quadrant Court: Disposal market strategy received.
- CFLL Care leavers accommodation: 2 of 6 now acquired with a third under offer.
- CFLL Childrens Homes: Process to source 9 properties for children's homes across the county.
- Coxbridge Farm: Sale completed in January 2024. £31m in receipts payable over the next 18 months.
- Dormers: Final terms for the disposal to Tandridge is agreed and will go for Cabinet Member Decision.
- Karibu, Epsom: Contract soon to exchange.
- Lilac and Norbuy Park cottages: Exchange shortly.
- Portsbury/Hillside: Marketing closed February 2024 several bids received.
- The Edge: Re-opened on a 12-month lease.

### Extra Care - Design, Build, Finance & Operate (DBFO):

- **Phase 1a (59 units) Pond Meadow:** Planning permission granted, S106 agreement in place. Scheme awaiting final decision on grant funding from Homes England. Expecting to start on site March/April 2024.
- **Phase 1b (5 sites c.306 units): Bentley and Pinehurst** secured outline planning approval. Salisbury and Brockhurst to be determined Summer 2024. Lakeside remains under review prior to planning process. Agreement for lease has commenced on the two sites that have secured outline planning.

- **Phase 2 (3 sites c.219 units):** Cabinet approved (July 2023) the procurement of a DBFO strategic partner for Colebrook (Redhill), Orchard Court (Lingfield) and Birchlands (Egham). RIBA Stage 2 design completed, and all three sites submitted for Outline Planning permission, anticipated will be determined before September 2024. Procurement for a strategic delivery partner will commence once outline Planning secured.

#### **Workplace and Facilities:**

- Macro Ltd: Phase 1 of the integrated facilities management contract went live in November 2023 with phase 2 scheduled for go live on 1 July 2024. FM Help Desk now managed by Macro.
- Life cycle and building condition surveys (& Asset Validation): Underway to inform the Capital Programme.
- **Compliance:** SCC/Macro are reporting on all aspects of compliance:
  - RAAC Schools: Programme all but complete; Shawfield Primary School confirmed with RAAC present. School remains operational following initial works. DfE supporting and confirmed funding for surveys. RAAC Corporate: Similar identification process as Schools. Five sites identified with RAAC to-date.
  - Asbestos: Task Group has updated the Council's asbestos management policy to align to HSE requirements. Progressing via SCC's specialist subcontractor to address the HSE Notice.
- Minor Capital Works: The 2023/24 programme is awaiting governance approval. It addresses urgent maintenance backlogs resulting in a change in the MTFS 5 year profiled spend.

**Agile Organisation Programme:** Acquisition of the new Woking Hub (Victoria Gate) completed on 29 February and design of the internal fit out is underway. Staff expected to move in from October 2024. Officers are re-examining building capacity and usage of the office estate to maximise existing buildings and minimise future footprint, ultimately leading to reduced costs of servicing buildings and decreased environmental impact.

**Waste:** Work developing a Materials Recycling Facility at Trumps Farm is progressing. Pre-application consultation took place between 5 February – 1 March 2024. This included two public drop-in sessions, and a virtual consultation room. Planning consultants are compiling feedback, but anecdotal evidence indicates residents acknowledged the facility was needed; concerns are around additional local traffic. We continue to develop our reuse offer and recently set up an arrangement for bicycles from community recycling centres to be provided to refugees. The bicycles are refurbished at a workshop at Ford Prison run by our waste management contactor, SUEZ, maximizing social value and training opportunities. SUEZ have applied for, and been granted, a variation to the Environmental Permit for the Eco Park. It includes several technical changes which have come about through the operation of the facility, as well as an increase in the quantity of waste permitted to be processed in the gasifier. This does not entail a change to the total quantity of waste permitted to be dealt with at the site under the Environmental Permit. There is currently no intention by SUEZ to increase the amount of waste processed in the gasifier, but this change would allow for future flexibility. Any increase in tonnage processed through the gasifier would require the consent of SCC and most likely an amendment to the planning consent which would be subject to public consultation.

**Infrastructure:** Good progress is being made across the Major Scheme programme, highlights include:

- **A320 North of Woking Improvements:** has all approvals needed and pre-construction planning workshops with the construction partner are in progress ahead of construction commencing later in 2024.
- **Farnham Infrastructure Programme:** the 20mph in key parts of the town is being delivered in phases, the Water Lane signal crossing works are due to start in March, detailed design is continuing on Borellis Walk cycle scheme, further design development/assessment is being undertaken on the Town Centre works and the Department for Transport has agreed for SCC to develop and submit the next stage business Case for the A31 bypass improvement.
- **Weybridge town centre:** improvement works to be delivered in phases, first phase taking place between spring and autumn 2024, including new pedestrian crossings and improvements for cyclists.
- **A308 Corridor:** improvement works are being delivered in phases – the Black Dog signal improvements are nearing completion, and The Shears signal improvement due to start on site in April.
- **A23 - Three Arch Road:** junction improvement detailed design nearing completion and legal processes to obtain some common land and small area of allotments to build the scheme are in progress with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

**River Thames Scheme:** Statutory Consultation concluded 4 March, with 800 responses received. Shepperton and Staines in-person events had the largest turnout. Progressing with Collaboration Agreement Part 2 with the Environment Agency.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Matthew Furniss

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways, Transport and Economic Growth

**Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Transfer Functions:** Preparing for the smooth transfer of former LEP functions and assets to SCC from the 1 April 2024 remains a priority. There has been extensive engagement and work with Enterprise M3 and Coast to Capital and senior officers/ representatives at the relevant upper tier local authorities (UTLAs). SCC seeks to become an Accountable Body for the purposes of collaborating with government on an integration plan and providing assurance for delivery of core LEP functions and government programmes across Surrey. As Accountable Body, we will be responsible for the delivery of the Surrey Growth Hub, the management of any residual LEP funding, and lead for the Longcross Park site as part of the EM3 Enterprise Zone. A governance review is in process to ensure the business voice is incorporated into local democratic decision-making related to the local economy.

**Festival of Skills:** Following the success of the first Festival of Skills event last year, this year's event has been confirmed for 15 October 2024, and we continue to plan and promote it. A Skills Demand Assessment is being conducted to increase understanding of the current skills gaps and where to target skills provision to ensure the needs of local businesses are met. Procurement for £2.3m of Skills Bootcamps training provision has begun and closes on 2 April 2024, with commencement of contracts expected to start from mid-May.

**Business Surrey:** From 1 April 2024, SCC will have a direct role in creating the right environment for businesses to grow and thrive through the provision of a new business support service, Business Surrey. A website will be launched and act as a one-stop-shop for businesses, providing information about business support programmes available in Surrey. Over and above the business support offer funded through the Government grant, our offer extends to those in the initial stages of starting a business, with nearly 100 people signing up to the Rebel Business School start-up course, which provides practical support to help residents turn ideas into viable businesses. We are also engaging with partners to shape the cluster development programme, ensuring cluster support activity is targeted towards work that will be most impactful for local sectors. A Civic Agreement is being developed to capture the work underway with our universities and ensure that universities and civic partners focus their engagement on meaningful activity to drive innovation, research, and growth in the local area.

**Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy:** The consultation on the Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy is progressing and being promoted to residents and stakeholders via various channels, including school bulletins, Surrey Matters and a recent social media push that has seen responses more than double from 1,700 to over 3,400. The new strategy aims to reduce death and injury on our roads, with a target to reduce collisions where someone has been killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2035 and 100% by 2050. It includes a new policy for a more flexible approach to implementing 20mph speed limits. The results of the consultation, and any proposed changes to the strategy and 20mph speed limit policy will be brought back to Cabinet in July 2024 for final approval, following scrutiny by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.

**Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT):** Five new Surrey Connect DDRT services started last year (six in total), with more planned this year. A tender that will see the DDRT fleet increase from 12 to 28 zero emission electric minibuses covering more of Surrey is being evaluated, and once complete the next phase of our DDRT roll out will be announced. 5,376 trips were made across all DDRT services in Feb, with customer satisfaction rates averaging 98%, showing that residents clearly like and are benefiting from this new flexible transport offer.

**Parking Enforcement:** The new Surrey/NSL Parking Enforcement Service has been operational for nearly twelve months. Recruitment of Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) roles has been successful and the NSL Team is fully staffed with around 65 CEOs employed full/ part time across three main bases in Guildford, Esher, and Redhill. The team are using satellite locations (e.g. SCC facilities) for welfare breaks during their shifts to reduce travelling time. Many recruits are new to parking enforcement so there has been a need for training and familiarisation with patrol routes and 'parking hotspots'. Monthly reports are sent to Members outlining parking enforcement data and now include school run enforcement visits. The introduction of virtual permits has been successful, and our team have been streamlining the operation of permit schemes around the county to make them easier for residents to understand and use.

We have also started to operate three bus lane cameras in Guildford to help stop unauthorised vehicles using the lanes and blocking buses. Our HGV Watch scheme has helped gain information about HGV compliance with weight restrictions so that we can plan enforcement where needed.

**Gatwick Airport – second runway proposal:** The Gatwick Airport Examination in Public to consider the proposal to convert the emergency runway into a second general runway commenced at the end of last month and will end in August. Officers produced a Local Impact Report identifying concerns, with Tandridge and Mole Valley District Councils, and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to submit to the Examination. Key issues are access (highways, parking, public transport, cyclists, and pedestrians), noise, and air quality. The Member Task Group will continue to meet for the Examination.

**Planning Advisory Service review:** This review of the Planning and Regulatory Committee has been implemented with a sixth meeting review due in April/May 2024. The changes have been broadly welcomed by Committee Members and officers and have improved the operation of the Committee.

**Placemaking's Capital Programme:** This programme of multi-faceted public realm schemes are progressing, with construction commenced on site at Croydon Road, Caterham, completion due in December 2024. The public realm will be improved and will introduce much needed flood reduction measures in the form of SuDs. Wider footways will improve accessibility, enable businesses to provide outdoor seating, whilst the introduction of a 20mph zone will slow traffic creating a safer environment. Phase 1 of Tongham is nearing completion with final remedial works being scheduled. Detailed designs of Horley High Street are underway with the Wayfinding project being the first element to be delivered in the summer this year.

**Healthy Streets:** Since its launched last year, statistics for usage of the design code website are improving, reaching almost 3,000 views. 127 SCC officers, 20 SCC Members, and 30 District and Borough Officers have received a briefing on the design code. The accessible PDF document will be published later this month, and a series of self-guided tours will be available through a digital app. A further £85,000 of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has been secured to create a shared platform for other design codes potentially across all eleven Boroughs and Districts. A centralised system should aid the quality and success of planning approvals. The AI driven tool will increase transparency and certainty for stakeholders, speed up and improve compliance of planning applications, and could save officer and developer time in the process.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Steve Bax

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways

**Highways Horizon update:** We are approaching the completion of the 2023/24 Horizon programme which has seen us carry out more resurfacing than in any other year, with over 1m<sup>2</sup> of surfacing completed on our roads and pavements equating to over 150 miles. In addition, we have completed significant numbers of schemes on other highway assets, such as the 62 refurbishments of traffic signals, and have carried out 32 schemes on our bridges and structures.

**Innovative New Solutions:** Utilising our Lane Rental surplus funding we trialed an innovative new solution for ground stabilisation on the A323 Aldershot Road. Traditional methods required significant removal and replacement of material, taking many weeks, and causing significant disruption. Our Highway Engineering Team identified an alternative solution used in other industries to stabilise embankments, but which has not previously been used for roads. It involved injecting a specialist geopolymer directly into the soil beneath the road up to a depth of 3m to stabilise the underlying surface prior to carrying out the resurfacing. The process was carried out overnight, meaning minimal disruption to traffic. The project has been shortlisted for a prestigious [Ground Engineering Award](#).

**Grass cutting:** Following on from my December update, I am pleased to confirm that the fifth and final urban cut of the 23/24 season has now started in all District and Boroughs. There will be six urban cuts in all Districts and Boroughs for the 24/25 season, with the sixth cut planned for March 2025; rural cuts remain the same, at two per year. Real progress has been made with mapping highway verges, and this will make it much easier for our contractors to ensure they cut the right areas first time. Going back to missed sections massively impacts on productivity, so real efforts have been made to avoid it this season. Grass cutting programmes will often change, for example the very wet weather over the last few weeks has meant that some verges were not able to be cut as planned. Nevertheless, an [interim programme](#) broken down to divisions is now available on our website, with the full programme for the 24/25 season due to be added at the start of April (and will be updated every two weeks).

Finally, I am aware that many Members will have viewed our prototype online maps, which detail the verge areas that will be cut, from the link shared towards the end of 2023. They have been updated based on the feedback we received, and the revised version will be available to the public in the next few weeks. These will be updated every time an area is cut, enabling our residents to see not only the verges which will be cut, but also when any cuts took place.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Kevin Deanus

**PORTFOLIO:** Fire and Rescue, and Resilience

**Military Covenant:** The Surrey Armed Forces Team have been working to support the needs of 6,000 serving personnel, 1,224 service children and 32,500 veterans in Surrey. In March we held the annual Armed Forces Covenant conference at the Army Training Centre (Pirbright), now renamed The Soldier Academy. Over 160 people attended, including the Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Mayors, military, businesses, health, SCC, District and Borough Councils, Police, Fire, and veterans, and was chaired by Saj Hussain, Chair of Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board. The theme was Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and delegates heard from inspirational speakers covering issues facing Foreign, Commonwealth, and Overseas armed forces personnel and their families. Caroline Paige, Chief Executive of Fighting with Pride, who became the first openly serving transgender officer in the British Armed Forces in 1999, spoke about issues she faced, the impact of the gay ban, and the support Fighting with Pride provides. Speakers included SCC and MoD colleagues exploring the support available to Carers, and the Head of HR from CGI who talked about their relationship with Defence.

Feedback was positive, with organisations considering how they can be more inclusive. SCC is looking at how to remove some of the disadvantages that ex-service personnel face by considering guaranteed interviews for appropriately qualified candidates seeking employment. The Countryside Team and Youth Offer Team welcomed seven veterans to the Norbury Park Sawmill in March for some volunteering, where they processed wood for our Forest Schools and enjoyed the opportunity of being outdoors getting to know fellow ex-service personnel. Due to the success, it will be repeated on the first Friday of each month going forward, supporting the values of the County Council and the wellbeing of our veterans. Delivery of awareness training covering the needs of the armed forces community continues, supported through promotion of the Forces Connect App sponsored by SCC, which has 22,000 downloads and 33 regions across England and Scotland, and we are engaging with Northern Ireland to bring them on board.

**Trading Standards:** Our winter communications focused on protecting vulnerable residents from scam phone calls. The campaign “Snow room for telephone scammers this Christmas” helped significantly increase the number of call blockers distributed to vulnerable residents. Last year 138 call blockers were installed, stopping 57,038 scam/ nuisance calls, preventing losses of over £2m. Serious delays in the court system have seen many of our prosecution cases bumped, causing serious stress for victims of crime. Despite this we have continued to successfully recover money for residents, such as £155,000 returned to the victim of a serious roofing fraud and another case recovering £180,000 for a victim of a complex phone-based scam.

**Illegal Vapes and Under-age sales:** On 29 January 2024 the Government as part of “Creating a smoke free generation” announced its intention to ban disposable vapes, restrict vape flavours, packaging, and placement in shops. We would enforce any new legislation and are awaiting details. Of the £30m funding announced for this we expect £5m to be allocated to local authority Trading Standards Services and £25m to go to HMRC and Border Force but this allocation is not confirmed yet. Locally there has been an increase of concerns about vapes that don't comply with existing legislation (non-approved, excessive nicotine content, exceeding max size) and a rise in complaints about sales to under 18s, so we have stepped up test purchasing with young people. Recent successes include stopping the sale of vapes to children from a vehicle selling outside of schools, seizing illegal vapes from retailers, and stopping illegal vapes entering the country. Most recently 20,000 illegal vapes were labelled as 0% nicotine to evade current legislation, but when tested by Trading Standards contained more than the maximum level of nicotine in legal vapes. We await with keen interest the new legislation and any associated resourcing for additional enforcement and prevention work. The new controls, though welcome, will create new enforcement challenges and we anticipate the growth of a black market of illegal products.

**Corporate Health and Safety:** The Health and Safety governance arrangements internal audit report was published in October 2023. The Corporate Leadership Team agreed ten actions; six have been implemented, with timescales agreed for the four remaining actions. These include: the development of a new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy and action plan focused on improvement and maintaining a safe and healthy workforce; a health and safety update will be provided to the Resources and Performance Select Committee in May 2024, which will include updates on emerging risks and areas for improvement; and Health and Safety training for Elected Members in March/April, delivered in a Member briefing session.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Marisa Heath

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Greener Futures:** The recently launched HEAT (Home Energy Advice Taskforce) programme is one of the largest Council-volunteer collaborations in the country. Over 230 free household retrofit surveys by trained volunteers have been completed to help homeowners understand how to reduce carbon/energy bills in their home; 70% said they were more likely to install significant retrofit.

SCC has won funding to boost Green Skills in Surrey in line with the Surrey Skills Improvement Plan. Following a green careers engagement campaign in schools, new and existing courses are being subsidized, to foster local talent and address the green skills gap.

**Solar Installation & Heat Networks:** SCC has been awarded £5m in PSDS3c grant funding, enabling the retrofit of 14 corporate buildings over the next two years and work is ongoing to deliver the PSDS3b project by October 2024. Solar surveys will be undertaken for several SCC sites intending to procure a large solar rooftops installation contract. A data-backed solar investment plan is being developed. The current phase of Solar Together is finalising soon with the expectation to complete at least 1000 solar installations.

The team is about to commission feasibility assessments for two potential heat networks in Staines and Camberley, harnessing a government grant obtained. While the HEAT surveys and resident focus groups continue progressing, preparations work continues for the One Stop Shop for Domestic retrofit project, harnessing the LEAD government grant. The Community Energy Pathways phase 2 was launched to support the development of a Surrey-wide community energy group and support an application to the DESNZ Community Energy Fund.

**Countryside:** The Surrey Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been rebranded to 'Surrey Nature Recovery.' A meeting with Defra LNRS team was held on 7 March and Defra are pleased with our progress on the LNRS. We are aiming for a publish date between March - May 2025 and our engagement programme will start in April 2024. Our internal GIS team have produced a first draft of the LNRS baseline map and technical task groups have been set up with initial meetings undertaken or booked for the near future.

A joint procurement with SCC and nine of the Districts and Boroughs will commence in April 2024, a study looking at the potential for 60 sites across the county to be used as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) 'Habitat Banks' BNG offsets. The SCC internal BNG working group is developing a BNG Habitat bank local sites register to act as a trading platform for the purchasing and selling of BNG credits.

**Flooding:** In addition to working with our partners in the immediate response, of Storm Henk Surrey teams are now working through investigations and engaging with impacted communities, some of which are still experiencing impacts related to high groundwater levels in Spelthorne and Tandridge. Surrey Teams are also supporting Districts and Boroughs in offering financial support to residents affected by flooding as part of the Governments Flood Recovery Framework. Residents may be eligible for financial support if their home or business was affected by flooding from Storm Henk - [Flooding - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/flooding).

SCC has been awarded funding through the Environment Agency and Defra's £25m Natural Flood Management (NFM) Programme for a project in Ash Ranges, Guildford. The £94k scheme was developed in partnership with Guildford BC, the Environment Agency, the Basingstoke Canal Authority, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Natural England, and the Ministry of Defence (landowners). The proposals include measures such as leaky dams, overland flow path management and water storage areas, which will temporarily store surface water during heavy rainfall.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mark Nuti

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health

**Empower Mental Health Flow Improvement:** This is a joint project between Surrey and Borders NHS Trust, SCC, and the Integrated Care Board, to look at improving mental health flow so it can deliver improved outcomes and better support for families and carers. The project will identify which workstreams will stop, continue, or be reframed. New projects which will maximise impact include referrals, gatekeeping and allocation; enabling flow through data and digital; personality disorder crisis pathway; timely treatment initiation; planning discharge from admission; and responsive commissioning. Leads have been identified for all work streams from across the system. Work is underway to ensure there is a one system plan in place.

**Surrey System Facing Symposium Making Connections:** I was delighted to host the first Surrey System Facing Symposium on Monday 19 February 2024. The purpose of this event was to nurture relationships between our wider system of partners, reaffirm roles and responsibilities within the system, and start a conversation around culture within health and how we can work more collaboratively together. 72 attendees came together, representing a wide cross section of the system: VCSE, Surrey Heartlands (including hospitals), Surrey County Council, Districts and Borough Councils, Surrey Carers, Surrey Police, Frimley, University of Surrey, and many more. Feedback was incredibly positive. The event is evolving into a bi-annual project, the next Symposium will be scheduled for autumn, focusing on a deep dive into Primary Care.

**Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI):** We are looking carefully at data to help us understand who in our communities are doing less well and how this links to things like disability, ethnicity, sex, age, and LGBTQ+ status. We are thinking particularly about education, financial security and employment, housing, health, family, and social life, whether people can use services, and if they can influence the things that are important to them. We will share this information with other organisations in Surrey to help us all work out who is being left behind and why, and what we need to do next to change this.

It is important that everyone who uses our services, and all our staff, can easily get into the new Victoria Gate office and use all the things they need to do their roles. Our new Accessibility Officer is part of the group that is making sure that the building has everything needed. She is also helping to make sure that the changes needed at Woodhatch Place are made.

Another important thing we are doing is changing how we think about Equality Impact Assessments (EIA). Instead of just seeing them as something we must do, we want everyone to see them as helpful tools for designing more inclusive services and policies, and understanding the impact of the decisions we make. To help us do this we have set up a group of EIA Champions made up of people from across Surrey County Council and are making sure that training is available. The team ran a development session for Members earlier this month.

The workforce reviews have given us a good understanding of the experiences of our disabled colleagues, those from ethnically diverse backgrounds and our LGBTQ+ staff. We know we have more to do in lots of areas, including policy development and implementation; recruitment; leadership and management; workforce development; and our workplace culture. The recommendations are informing the plan for what we want to achieve in 2024-25.

**Portfolio changes to include community work:** In addition to my other responsibilities my portfolio is to expand to accommodate the local engagement and prevention teams together with the engagement work with partners across our towns and neighbourhoods. This reflects the opportunity to align the work closely with the public health approach, health integration, and our goal to tackle health inequalities across the county. A key focus in coming weeks and months will be further development of the “team around the community” model – this will help us to better connect and target our key community-based roles (starting with the core of Community Link Officers, Local Area Coordinators, Communities and Prevention Coordinators) for maximum preventative impact, working alongside locality roles in the County Council, District and Borough Councils, the local NHS, and the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Sinead Mooney

**PORTFOLIO:** Adult Social Care

**Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection:** We have been notified that the CQC will be carrying out an assessment of Surrey's Adult Social Care Service. The service provided initial information on 8 March 2024 and a date will be confirmed for an on-site assessment visit, which will take place within the next six months, and we expect to receive 6-8 weeks' notice. The assessment will focus on how well the council is meeting its duties under the Care Act 2014. The CQC will be assessing councils over the next two years, with Surrey among the first to be visited. We welcome this external check as an opportunity to showcase the work we do every day across Surrey to support people to live their best lives. The CQC will focus on four key themes - working with people, providing support, ensuring safety and leadership.

**Social Work Week:** As part of Social Work week (18 - 21 March) the Principal Social Worker has encouraged all staff to attend one of the many free learning and collaboration events hosted by Social Work England that week. We are also taking the opportunity presented by this national initiative to raise public awareness of what social work is and to showcase the rewards of a career in social care. Our Academy has launched The Surrey Social Care Hotseat Podcast especially in time for social work week to promote careers in social work. The podcasts are centred around the career experiences of a Social Work trainee, a senior Specialist Practitioner, and the Principal Social Worker.

**Older People & Frailty Transformation:** The over-arching aims of the programme are to reduce the number of primary admissions to hospital amongst the Older People (65+)/ frailty cohort. This is to ensure good flow through hospital when admitted, with timely discharge and that more older people return home safely. This will reduce costs associated with hospital admissions and the highest cost packages of care. The launch of the wider 3-5 year programme will focus on ensuring that more older people can be discharged home safely and will be implemented through 100-day challenge programmes, running in North West Surrey, Guildford, and Waverley. These launch on 19 March and will report back after 50 days, and then at the end of the challenge. We will use the learning to roll out new approaches across Surrey. During Q2 (July-September 2024) we will be designing the wider 3-5 programme for review and approval.

**Performance compared to the region:** Surrey performs well in a number of indicators, for example:

- More people using social care receiving a direct payment at (29.2%) compared with (26.2%) for England and (25.9%) for the region. For this indicator, councils will generally aim for a high score, and Surrey is ranked 49 nationally for this indicator.
  - More residents with learning disabilities in paid employment (11.8%) relative to the regional (6.6%) averages.
  - More care homes rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by the CQC (81.8%) compared to regional (77.4%) averages.
- The growing number of requests for support, means we need to continue to focus on reducing the time people wait for an assessment or annual review of their needs, for safeguarding enquiries and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard applications to be completed.

**Delivering the 'Right Homes, Right Support' Strategy:** March marks an exciting milestone for this Strategy (formerly known as Accommodation with Care and Support). Construction will be starting at a site in Woking on a new Short Breaks accommodation this month. Once operational this will ensure that autistic people and adults with learning disabilities have places that can cater for their needs when they or their carers need a break. Alongside the bedrooms, a sensory room, communal lounge, dining room, accessible courtyard, and gardens will be provided. The building is designed on a green footprint with plans to use solar panels and heat pumps to create an all-electric, highly insulated building, and a more sustainable use of water resources.

**Housing, Homes & Accommodation Strategy for Surrey:** This was agreed and published in 2023 which provides, for the first time, an overview for all interested parties of the current state of housing, accommodation, and homes in Surrey, supplementing the detailed work of Districts and Boroughs. Our call to government has been shared with the Leaders of Surrey's Councils, with each Council sending it independently, as they wish. This initiative has created lots of interest in other authorities, and I have recently submitted an essay on the work to Localis. I am pleased also to have been asked to join a meeting of the Government Older People's Housing Taskforce to discuss the Strategy, which I hope will help to develop this further.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Clare Curran

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Plan:** In response to the Ofsted/CQC Inspection the improvement plan was submitted to the DfE at the start of March, after having been developed, prioritised, and co-produced with key stakeholders. Initial feedback has been positive and encouraging.

**SEND Recovery Plan and Progress:** Timeliness for the completion of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP) was 13% in January as projected in the recovery plan. This is due to overdue assessments being finalised ahead of most new applications. Educational Psychology (EP) capacity has been increased through external contract providers and this, combined with lower-than-expected demand for assessments, has enabled the EP assessments backlog to be reduced from 1,014 in May 2023 to 0 by February 2024. All overdue EP assessments are underway and will be completed by the end of March.

98% of SEN Officer roles are now filled and we have an Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) Recovery Team who are working to ensure that once the EP assessments are completed, the SEN team finalises the process within timescales. I am pleased to report that the team are on track to achieve the May target of 60% EHCP timeliness. Support while waiting, continues to be offered to schools and students by the Specialist Teachers for Inclusive Practice Teams until assessments are completed.

The SEN team has also established a team to ensure that annual reviews are completed without delay, and a SEN helpdesk has been established to support better communication with families and schools, alongside pilots for SENCo and parent drop-in sessions. These measures are already having a positive impact with fewer complaints coming into the service. The focus moving forward is to ensure that the SEN and EP teams are sustainable and able to meet demand for EHCP (Education and Health Care Plans) statutory work.

**National Offer Day – Update for this year’s secondary place allocation:** On 1 March 2024, Surrey’s School Admissions team successfully issued outcomes for secondary school places for September 2024 to over 12,200 Surrey residents. All parents were required to have either accepted or declined their offer by 15 March 2024.

In total, 83.1% of Surrey applicants have been offered a place at their first preference school (an increase from 81.3% last year) and 95.9% of Surrey applicants have been offered a place at one of their six preference schools (an increase from 95.1% last year). As some parents decline places, more places will be freed up and these will be offered to applicants according to their position on each school's waiting list. Alternatively, all parents have the right to appeal against an admission decision and to do so they should follow the advice in their outcome letter.

**Early Years Expansion:** The report detailing this Council’s approach to the implementation of the Early Years Expansion to Entitlements was endorsed by Cabinet in February. Recruitment to new posts within the Early Years Teams is underway to support the growth and development of the sector and ensure the best quality provision for our youngest children. The sector consultation and the parent/ carer consultations have closed, and the responses will be analysed over the coming weeks to ascertain supply and demand, and sufficiency requirements. The first grants funding panel will take place in March, to provide financial support to schools and settings to create the additional places that will be needed to meet families’ needs.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Maureen Attewell

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

**Domestic Abuse Strategy:** In Surrey, our vision is for every adult and child experiencing domestic abuse to be seen, safe and heard, and free from the harm caused by perpetrator behaviour. The [Surrey Domestic Abuse strategy 2018-23](#) is currently being refreshed in partnership to support the delivery of recommendations from the [Domestic Abuse \(DA\) Needs Assessment 2023](#), Survivor Voice, and partnership workshops.

### **Domestic Violence Achievements in 2023:**

- Support in [Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) published, and Surrey wide Sanctuary scheme delivered by outreach providers to enable survivors and their children to stay in their homes where it is safe to do so.
- Refuge Accommodation For All (RAFA) project – providing 8 safe, dispersed, self-contained refuge spaces in Surrey for all victims of domestic abuse, who face barriers in accessing communal refuges.
- Introduction of the [Surrey Gold Standard Coercive and Controlling Behaviour Framework](#), which has been presented and endorsed at an Executive level.
- Surrey DA immigration project provides the specialist casework required to support individuals who experience both domestic violence and complex immigration, nationality, and asylum challenges is live and supporting clients - 15 pieces of individual casework and 38 one off pieces of advice provided.
- Hope for Change is now live, a new service that offers temporary housing solutions for those individuals causing harm through DA – 4 residents currently with a further resident due imminently.
- A central virtual 'Steps to Change' perpetrators hub will co-ordinate a trauma informed and multi-agency approach to end abusive behaviours.
- Youths Using Violence and Abuse project has supported 71 young people in the last 12 months.
- Centralisation DA Related Death Reviews (DARDR) 15 ongoing reviews, 9 standalone and 6 joint DARDR's / Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
- Court pack has been developed to help survivors respond quickly and effectively if the alleged abusive parent applies to the Family Court in England to establish legal contact with your children.
- Continued investment in public communications campaigns on social media and in public spaces, raising awareness of DA with a particular focus on coercive and controlling behaviour. As a result, we have seen a 25% increase in unique visitors to the [www.surreyagainstda.info](http://www.surreyagainstda.info) website. An increase in calls to the Surrey Domestic Abuse Helpline is also observed during campaign periods.

**Domestic Violence Ongoing projects and next steps:** These include a new contract for DA Outreach Service and DA Training, which will go live in April 2024. As well as raising awareness via roll out the Court Pack to all DA providers in Surrey.

### **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Achievements:**

- Surrey's VAWG Partnership published the [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#) 2023-2025.
- [The Serious Violence Duty 2022](#), ensures that local authorities and services work together to reduce serious violence, inclusive of VAWG and Domestic Abuse.
- New county-wide [Anti-Victim Blaming Guidance](#) has been published with the support of partners, specialist service provision, and survivors to improve our responses to victims and survivors. With [Anti-Victim Blaming training](#) rolled out to embed anti-victim blaming practice.
- SCC has launched a Street Harassment campaign to raise awareness of all forms of street harassment in Surrey's communities and empower both communities and professionals to act with Anti-Harassment training.
- Workshops on specific areas of VAWG to upskills partners and improve workplace culture and partnership work to improve the Night-Time Economy for women.
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's successful bid to the Home Office 'What Works Fund' for VAWG Engagement and Prevention Workers as part of the [Preventing Violence and Supporting Children project](#).

**Violence against Women and Girls – Ongoing projects and next steps:** We will improve workplace culture by introducing a Surrey County Council DA Advocacy Network. The partnership is continuing work to create a VAWG Needs Assessment, which will inform our partnership VAWG action plan. We will continue to raise awareness of all forms of VAWG and the drivers of these forms of abuse and violence.

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