

Cabinet: Item 7

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Cabinet Report: Current and recent Business

Start of Life

Stephen Hillier Children – Start of Life



1 Children's Commissioner Visit

The Children's Commissioner, Anne Longfield OBE, visited the County Council on 10 January to mark the launch of the new Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service. The Commissioner has been an advocate of integrated working and praised the County Council's transition to move to this operating model and the opportunities that it brings. The Commissioner used the opportunity to speak about the challenges children and young people face, particularly young carers. The event also marked the introduction of the 1001 Critical Days manifesto for the county.

2 Start of Life Partnership Board

The Start of Life Partnership Board held a workshop session on 20 January to:

- Understand the local and national drivers for the rise in homelessness;
- Consider the financial impact on budgets and the wider public purse;
- Examine the impacts that this has on service delivery;
- Look at ways that this can be mitigated and/or prevented to ensure better outcomes for the children of affected households; and
- Start an ongoing discussion on how the Board can work across services and authorities to address these issues in the longer term.

Following the discussion the Board agreed to make housing one of its key priorities for the forthcoming year. The Board is considering forming a task and finish group to take this work forward.

The Economy

Louise Goldsmith Economy



3 Mid Sussex District Deal

The County Council and Mid Sussex District Council are working in partnership to

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deliver shared priorities and ambitions for an economic growth programme for Burgess Hill. This follows the launch of the Crawley Growth Deal in December and further demonstrates the County Council's continuing work with district and borough councils to create conditions for economic growth in the county. The Mid Sussex District Deal identifies key growth areas designed to create new housing and jobs and rejuvenate the Burgess Hill town centre area. The County Council and Mid Sussex District Council are committed to work co-operatively and in partnership to deliver the projects outlined in the District Deal, working with multiple agencies, including the Homes and Communities Agency and the Local Enterprise Partnership, to ensure that infrastructure is planned holistically, funded and delivered at the appropriate time.

Later Life

Peter Catchpole Adult Social Care and Health



4 Implementation of the Care Act 2014 – Adult Safeguarding

The Care Act 2014 came into effect in April 2015 and placed a duty on the Council to carry out safeguarding enquiries and to put in place Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB). The now statutory West Sussex SAB has developed and actively promotes the values and principles contained in ['Making Safeguarding Personal'](#)* – an initiative to ensure those being safeguarded are consulted and informed and at the centre of work being undertaken to help them. Adults' Services has been working towards achieving all the advisory requirements of the Act since summer 2014 with a formal review of the policy and procedures used for adult safeguarding and a revised training programme for staff. In support of this approach, a Person-Centred Safeguarding Champion Programme has been implemented supporting 'champions' from 48 care homes to improve service quality, reduce the number of serious safeguarding incidents and support recovery. The Cabinet Member reminds members that if they have any cause for concern about an adult that may be being harmed, abused or neglected to [Raise It!](#) by following this campaign link, by contacting Sussex Police or the County Council's online adult safeguarding alert form on the ['raise a concern about an adult'](#) page or by telephoning Adults' CarePoint on 01243 642121.

5 Implementation of the Care Act 2014 – Wellbeing and Prevention

The Cabinet Member is pleased to report the strengthening of a range of wellbeing, prevention, information and advice services to increase opportunities to prevent, reduce or delay the need for people to require funded social care, as set out by the Care Act. Improved preventative services which are now in place include:

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- Home from hospital schemes
- Help at home schemes (giving practical assistance)
- Day activities
- Impact Initiatives and services tackling social isolation and loneliness

Information and advice services for all residents are provided by Age UK West Sussex and Citizens' Advice offices across the county, in addition to those specifically for carers and provided by Carers Support West Sussex. The preventative approach is also at the core of the [Supporting Lives, Connecting People](#) transformation agenda for Adults' Services which has initiated four innovation sites across the county to test the new approach, the first of which went live in Shoreham on 16 January.

6 Implementation of the Care Act 2014 – Carers

The Care Act put carers on an equal footing to those with care and support needs giving all councils a duty to promote carer wellbeing. The County Council had long recognised the value of identifying and supporting carers and contracted for a broad range of services for carers. A recent procurement process to combine some existing services into comprehensive service to identify, assess and support carers needs saw Carers Support West Sussex (CSWS) awarded a contract to provide services. These include carer assessments, a carer helpline, referrals to carer respite services, individual and group support, support in hospital settings, equipment and technology to reduce carer stress and promote independence at home, and help for young adult carers aged 18 to 25 years. Since April 2015 the number of referrals to CSWS has increased: these now average around 250 per month and the number of carers supported has risen to 17,000. The County Council continues to review the quantity and quality of carer services provided and where opportunities for improvements have been identified, this information has been fed back to CSWS for action.

7 Adult Social Care User Survey

The Cabinet Member is pleased to be able to highlight the response to the annual National Adult Social Care User Survey 2015/16. Of the 1,047 questionnaires sent out to West Sussex residents, 386 responded – a 37% response rate. Of the 386 who responded 88% said that, as a whole, their quality of life was either very good, good or alright and 95% felt that they were safe, or generally safe. 90% said that they were either extremely, very or quite satisfied with their social care and support services and that having views listened to and taken into account and being treated with dignity and respect, were the aspects of social care services that were most important to them. A small number of the respondents (14 people - 3.7% of the total) expressed concerns about their care and support services. A follow-up survey has been undertaken on the 386 responses received by the County Council to find out what could help improve services. More detailed and targeted work will be planned later in 2017, once survey results have been fully analysed and understood.

Stronger Communities

Bob Lanzer Highways and Transport



8 Roads Funding 2017/18

The Department for Transport has announced capital funding for councils in 2017/18 to improve the productivity and safety of local roads. In addition to existing funding allocations for highway maintenance, grant funding from the new National Productivity Investment Fund (to improve the local roads network and public transport) and Safer Roads Fund (to tackle some of the most dangerous 'A' Roads) has been made available to the County Council. Under the eligibility criteria West Sussex is preparing a bid to fund a package of safety improvements on the A285. This will include improvements to existing junctions, road widening and a signage review. The improvements proposed in the bid would help to address the type of accidents associated with the route and would be undertaken in tandem with the County Council's ongoing work with partners on safer driving initiatives

9 Highways Contract

A decision is being prepared for the Cabinet Member to initiate re-procurement of the Highways Term Maintenance Contract. The existing contract will end on 30 June 2018 and work continues on a procurement strategy for a new contract to start the following day. A member Task and Finish Group (TFG) and the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee (ECSSC) have helped develop and scrutinise the Outline Business Case for the procurement. A Member Day on 4 January provided an opportunity for all members to input their priorities to the new service design. The Full Business Case (FBC) for procurement is currently being drawn up which will contain the finalised option for the structure of the new contract. Member engagement will continue throughout the re-procurement exercise and the FBC will be considered by the TFG and ECSSC.

10 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy

The County Council recently adopted a Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy which enables better long-term planning of maintenance and investment. The County Council has Highways Infrastructure Assets assessed at £17.1bn including 2,486 miles of roads, 748 bridges and 32 subways. The priorities of the Future West Sussex Plan are now embedded at the heart of asset management helping to enhance an understanding of the contribution highway infrastructure makes to economic growth and social well-being of local communities. The adoption of the Policy has also ensured that Incentive Funding from the Department for Transport, equivalent to an additional £6.5m over the next four years, is secured.

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11 Body-Worn Cameras

An initiative to address anti-social driving outside schools has recently been introduced at Harlands Primary School in Haywards Heath, following a successful trial of body-worn cameras by 'lollipop' staff at a school in Camelsdale in 2016. The introduction of body-worn cameras slowed the speed of traffic and reduced the level of verbal abuse. Other 'problem' sites, where the County Council would fund cameras, have been identified at Lancing, Coldwaltham, Turners Hill, Durrington and Chichester. Schools in other parts of the county suffering from similar issues are encouraged to contact the County Council to investigate if the initiative is appropriate in their area. All incidents of anti-social driving captured by the cameras are reported to Sussex Police and signs warning motorists of the use of cameras are erected when the 'lollipop' patrols are in operation.

12 Operation Watershed

The County Council's Operation Watershed scheme has won a national award for 'Meaningful Devolution' from the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) for work undertaken to help communities protect themselves against flooding. Over the past four years the scheme has provided almost £3m in grants to community projects and helped to establish 23 flood action groups. The scheme has engaged communities in local arrangements to combat flooding risks and enabled involvement in the management of local flood resilience. This model of community engagement particularly impressed ADEPT and has also been commended by the National Flood Forum. During the current financial year over 40 projects have been funded through the scheme and it is proposed that £500,000 is committed for 2017/18 to continue Operation Watershed's inspirational work.

Stronger Communities

Christine Field Community Wellbeing



13 Winter Pressures and Delayed Transfers of Care from Hospital

The Cabinet Member continues to oversee County Council work with NHS partners to address winter pressures on hospital services. Each of the counties acute hospitals have declared OPEL 4 status (which indicates that organisations are unable to deliver comprehensive care, with increased potential for patient care and safety to be compromised) from time to time over the past months. The County Council's hospital discharge teams have responded and performed very well in the face of these pressures such that very few patients, for whom the Council has responsibility, have had their discharge from hospital delayed. At St Richards and Worthing hospitals there have been virtually no delays including during the very busy festive period. West Sussex is well below the mean and in the bottom third of county local authorities for total Delayed Transfers of Care per 100,000 population aged 65+. This highlights that when

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benchmarked against other local authorities, West Sussex County Council is performing very well. The County Council also continues to promote critical, timely NHS messages as part of its 'Keep Well This Winter' campaign to residents through social media as well as publishing its own winter wellbeing advice and information and releasing press statements to reinforce messages.

14 Mental Health Support

The Cabinet Member was heartened to hear the commitment made to improving mental health in [the Prime Minister's speech](#) on 9 January, including plans for every secondary school to be offered mental health first aid training, that by 2021 no child would be sent away from their local area to receive treatment for mental health issues, improvements in mental health support in the workplace and more focus on community care such as crisis cafes and local clinics, with an extra £15m towards this. The current County Council services in these areas continue to deliver support for West Sussex residents and include:

- A comprehensive programme of training for all those working with children and young people, led by Coastal West Sussex Mind;
- Crisis Care and Urgent Help provision;
- Increased Access to Psychological Therapies Services for vulnerable children and young people;
- Mental health champions in all West Sussex secondary schools; and
- A tier 2 alliance between a range of community and voluntary sector organisations and the local mental health trust to enable the further development of services such as peer mentoring, group and activity based support advice and consultancy from mental health specialist practitioners.

15 Key Stage 4 Performance †

In 2016, West Sussex secondary schools have been very successful in ensuring outcomes for young people are well above national averages across a number of measures. Attainment 8 is a measure of attainment of all pupils in eight subjects, including English and maths. 50.8% of pupils in West Sussex passed all eight subjects, 0.7% above the national average. Progress has also been measured from Key Stage 2 (KS2) to KS4 in the same range of subjects. Progress 8 is a measure of the value added to pupils' learning by a school. The very positive picture in the majority of schools is reflected across the county, which is in the top 20 percent of local authorities in the country (30 of 151).

Stronger Communities

David Barling Residents' Services



16 Crawley Fire Station refurbishment

The official opening of new facilities at Crawley Fire Station was held on

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13 January. The Fire Station is staffed 24 hours a day and provides fire cover for the town and local area. Refurbishment has provided upgraded facilities for fire crews including new training, meeting and office areas. The training and meeting rooms will be used for regular multi-agency meetings, joint training events and made available for community groups.

17 West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service deployment

On 13 January West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) authorised the deployment of a Flood Tactical Advisor, a Specialist Boat and Swift Water Rescue Team to Suffolk. This was in response to a request from the National Resilience Team to support the national emergency response and recovery planning arrangements for an expected east coast tidal surge. WSFRS ensured that a full flood capability was maintained in the county and no frontline resources were adversely impacted due to the Suffolk deployment. Resources were deployed in Littlehampton and Bognor Regis to monitor tidal conditions, but there was no reported flooding or weather related incidents. The deployment and operations demonstrated the effectiveness of planning and partnership working in WSFRS at the County Council.

18 Better Connected Project

The Better Connected Project is providing coverage of 'superfast' broadband to 3,000 additional premises by the end of 2017. Six hundred more homes and businesses are benefiting and British Telecom (BT) has confirmed that take-up of new broadband services is the fastest growing in the country. Overall take-up in West Sussex of better, faster broadband services provided by the Better Connected Project is almost at 40%. As a consequence of the take-up of new broadband services, BT is returning £3.9m to the County Council demonstrating the robust contract management arrangements in place. This money will be used to provide additional coverage to up to 4,000 premises by the end of 2018. Postcode areas included in the delivery plans for this funding will be surveyed by engineers later this summer and details of the proposed roll-out will follow.

19 Retained Firefighters Recruitment

In response to the need to increase the numbers of retained firefighters in the county, two fire stations held recruitment events for anyone interested in becoming a retained firefighter in West Sussex and try for themselves some of the tests and equipment involved. Over the weekend of 28 and 29 January, Selsey and Storrington Fire Stations were opened to provide opportunities for people to find out more about the role of the firefighter. This included seeing the vehicles and equipment, learning about the Fire and Rescue Service prevention role and all the other services offered by firefighters to help the local community. A number of potential candidates attended the sessions and will now be invited to their local stations to progress their applications. Following this assessment testing days will be held in February and March.

Effective Council

Richard Burrett Corporate Relations



20 Digital Tea Party

A second Digital Tea Party was held on 18 January at Crawley Library. The event, which supports the County Council's channel shift strategy, was organised in partnership with Crawley Borough Council, O₂, Barclays Bank and Capita. Through its channel shift strategy and other initiatives, the County Council seeks to help customers use technology to interact with services, create resilient communities and enhance democratic participation. The Digital Tea Party provided an opportunity to answer questions from people about how to use smartphones, tablets and laptops. Over 50 people attended and the initial feedback was that it was extremely useful, providing a good introduction to computers and giving people the confidence and encouragement they need to develop their IT skills. Three follow-up Digital Clubs have been arranged at Crawley Library.

21 Corporate Sustainability Strategy 2015-19

Since the County Council's [Corporate Sustainability Strategy*](#) was approved in December 2015, the Sustainability Team has been meeting the targets set for reporting and monitoring progress against agreed actions. The County Council continues to reduce the energy used to heat and light its buildings and street lights, generate more renewable energy and make savings on its water bills. Ten school projects have now achieved 'very good' [BREEAM](#) (sustainability assessment method for infrastructure and buildings) pre-assessment scores. The County Council continues to identify opportunities to embed sustainability in its working practices. Some examples include:

- A new Environmental Checklist has been developed. This helps Project Managers in the Highways Teams understand and manage environment and heritage risks in a timely way. The checklist also helps to identify opportunities to deliver wider County Council priorities, e.g. reducing flood risk or improving resilience.
- Information on the County Council's Corporate Sustainability Strategy will be included in the post-election member induction and the new corporate staff induction programmes.

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Effective Council

Jeremy Hunt Finance



22 Apprenticeship Levy

The Apprenticeship Levy, to fund accredited training, will come into effect in April and will be recovered through employer's Pay As You Earn (PAYE). The County Council, with an annual pay bill over £3m, will be levied at a rate of 0.5% in 2016/17. All maintained schools, with the exception of 50 voluntary aided and foundation schools, who will be individually assessed, are included within the County Council's annual pay bill. The County Council aims where possible, to help to reduce the funding pressures facing schools, which are particularly acute for smaller schools. It is therefore intending to bear the cost of the levy for the majority of maintained community and voluntary controlled schools, only imposing the cost of the levy on 16 larger schools, for the element above their £3m payroll threshold. This will enable the County Council to recover £0.14m of the £1.1m Apprenticeship Levy charge it will incur in relation to these schools.

Contact: Helen Kenny, 033022 22532

Background Papers

None

† Questions on topics within the Education and Skills portfolio will be answered by the following Cabinet Members:

- Education, Schools support and Academy Liaison - Christine Field
- Property and school place planning – capital finance - Jeremy Hunt
- Further Education Liaison; Adult Skills and Learning - Peter Catchpole
- Skills Development and Apprenticeships - Stephen Hillier
- School reorganisation in the Storrington area - Louise Goldsmith