

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

Cabinet Members' Reports: Current and recent Business

Start of Life

Stephen Hillier Children – Start of Life



1 Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH)

The Early Years Redesign has moved into a new phase following a decision in September (CH4(16/17)) to progress with further design work and staff and stakeholder engagement based on the principle of full integration of the existing Early Childhood, Youth and Think Family services. The provisional name for the new service is Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help. This emphasises the preventative element of the service offer, which is intended to promote the take-up of universal services (health, early years and schools) and build strong resilient families and provide them with additional support at the earliest opportunity. The final operating model is expected to give a strong presence in each district area and to cater for the needs of individual localities. The integration of the Healthy Child Programme, which includes services provided by school nurses and health visitors, into the new service is also seen as an important part of the overall vision. Once the design work is complete formal proposals will be considered towards the end of December for the implementation of the new service structure. The outcome of any further service integration options worked up with the new provider of the Healthy Child Programme could be considered at a later date.

2 1001 Critical Days

The 1001 Critical Days Manifesto highlights the importance of intervening early in the 1001 critical days between conception to age two to enhance the outcomes for children. There is a growing acknowledgement that those first early years of a child's life are crucial. Providing parents with professional help and public resource, where needed, has the potential to make a significant difference to parenting confidence and ultimately how that child will grow into an adult contributing to society. This work is being championed at a national level by an All Party Political Group, chaired by the MP for East Worthing and Shoreham. The County Council is striving to be one of the first councils to develop a 1001 Critical Days Manifesto, and will be working closely with a wide range of partner organisations during the autumn in order to shape its development. A Manifesto launch event will take place in the spring at which partners will be invited formally to pledge their support.

Start of Life

Richard Burrett Education and Skills



N.B. Due to ongoing medical treatment Richard Burrett is not currently responsible for the Education and Skills portfolio. In the short term the portfolio is being managed within the Cabinet, as set out below. The responsible member of the Cabinet is also listed by each paragraph.

- *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*

3 Selsey Academy (Jeremy Hunt)

As a result of the fire on 21 August at Selsey Academy, the majority of the school buildings were either completely destroyed or badly affected by the smoke. Officers from several parts of the County Council responded immediately to support the school, the Academy sponsors (TKAT) and the local community in making arrangements to ensure the continued education of pupils. The Secretary of State for Education sent a senior official from the Education Funding Agency, together with a Project Director, who worked with the County Council to support and advise the Academy on alternative arrangements. The school re-opened on 12 September, a week later than others in the county, and is operating from a variety of sites across Selsey. Temporary classrooms are being installed and are referred to as the 'School Village' with an expected target date for completion of 21 October.

4 Exam Results (Christine Field)

Early indications show that GCSE results in the county are 4.5% above the national average and could place the County Council high in the league tables to be published later in the year. 'A' Level results have also shown improvement on last year's figures. Primary School results were disappointing in the first year of the new curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2. Measures are being put in place to support the delivery of the new curriculum in schools and to improve results.

5 School Funding (Louise Goldsmith)

In July the Government announced a delay in the introduction of a National Funding Formula for mainstream schools and changes to the allocation of funding to local authorities for children with High Needs. The delay means that full implementation of the new formula, which is designed to create a fairer system,

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

is unlikely to be implemented before 2020/21 or beyond and that school funding in 2017/18 will once again be cash frozen. Under the current arrangements the County Council receives the fifth lowest funding per pupil nationally, at £438 per pupil below the national average. The Leader has written to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern about this situation and requesting that transitional funding is allocated to the County Council to assist with these cost pressures until the implementation of the National Funding Formula and High Needs funding changes.

The Economy

Louise Goldsmith Economy



6 Creative Digital Hub at Bognor Regis

As part of the County Council's commitment to stimulate economic growth, work has been progressing with partners including the University of Chichester and Arun District Council on the development of a Creative Digital Hub at Bognor Regis railway station. The hub will be designed to meet the needs of up to 150 businesses by providing shared workspace, facilities, support and training for creative digital businesses in and around the town. The County Council has been working with [Wired Sussex](#) and local designer [Wayne Hemingway](#) to engage successfully with local businesses and communities and harness their support for the project. Key steps are now being progressed towards the launch of the hub next year. This includes a decision to be taken by the Leader in the winter to approve the commencement of a procurement process for a Creative Digital Hub operator.

7 Economic Growth – Town Centre Regeneration

The official opening of Montague Place, Worthing took place on 23 September. The town centre improvement project provided various enhancements to the square in Worthing's town centre, including paving replacement and a new bandstand. The project provides an example of successful partnership working between the County Council, [Coast-to-Capital Local Enterprise Partnership](#), local councils and organisations in order to provide benefits to both residents and visitors whilst maintaining and boosting the economy of West Sussex. A further collaborative improvement project for Queens Square, Crawley began in late September. The project aims to update the town centre and act as a catalyst for wider town regeneration. The work is expected to be completed in August 2017.

Later Life

Peter Catchpole Adult Social Care and Health



8 West Sussex Care Month

West Sussex Care Month is being held this month. The initiative will highlight information to support people to live independently in their own homes as they get older and help those thinking about what care they might need in the future. This year it also focuses on the [five ways to wellbeing](#) which can help support long, independent and healthy lifestyles:

- Connect
- Be Active
- Keep Learning
- Take Notice
- Give to Others

As part of this focus during Care Month a number of members, including the Cabinet Member and the Leader, have arranged to go 'back to the floor' and experience working in a care environment. The Cabinet Member is pleased to support these valuable opportunities for members to see at first hand the care available in the county and talk to both users of care services and the staff that provide it. Care Month is also an opportunity to support the 10% of the West Sussex population who are unpaid carers as well as to identify and help those new to the caring role. It will ensure they are aware of the services available to them including those from [Carers Support West Sussex](#). More details about Care Month are available at www.westsussex.gov.uk/caremonth.

9 New operating model for future service delivery

The County Council's Adults' Operations team which supports Adult Social Care is working with the Cabinet Member to develop a new operating model for the future delivery of services. The main aim, in line with the [Future West Sussex](#) vision, is to enable people to live independently for longer and to enable the County Council to meet the challenge of increasing demographic pressures. The proposals, with input from a Member Day held in June and the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee in September, include a more accessible, community-based service with a focus on working face-to-face with residents on illness prevention, personal independence and support for rehabilitation. Extensive consultation on the proposed vision and operating model is planned throughout 2016/17, followed by a monitoring and evaluation exercise to inform a final Cabinet Member decision in autumn 2017 and implementation in 2017/18. Alongside the consultation, Adults' Operations is proposing to trial the proposals

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

in several locations commencing later in 2016/17. The locations will reflect the diverse nature of West Sussex and currently include Crawley, East Grinstead, the rural area north of Chichester and an urban area in Adur.

10 Big Health Day

The Cabinet Member continues to support work towards ensuring the health and wellbeing of West Sussex residents with learning disabilities and was pleased to join the annual Big Health Day held in Worthing on 15 September. The event was organised and attended by the [Learning Disability Partnership Board](#) which is made up of people with learning disabilities, their advocates, carers and people from health and community services. The day focused on wellbeing and healthy eating by exchanging news, information and advice through interactive workshops, hands-on demonstrations and the sharing of a healthy lunch. Those attending considered making a 'health promise' to make healthier eating choices themselves or with the people they support. The day closed with activities in the park opposite the venue, run by community sports project, [Outthere](#). This work is in line with a guiding principle of [Future West Sussex](#), building strong, vibrant communities and helping people to help themselves.

11 Recruitment and retention of adult care workers

The Cabinet Member reports on the launch of a community-based campaign led by the Communications Team to improve the recruitment and retention of adult care workers across West Sussex. Focusing initially in Burgess Hill, Midhurst and Petworth during September and November, the collaborative initiative aims to work with the market for care and support at home, residential care, extra-care housing and in-house provider services for older people. Local events will be held, working with partners in each community including, NHS providers, Skills for Care, schools, colleges, Job Centre Plus, community teams and care providers. The aim is to raise awareness of the work and training opportunities available and to understand any perceived barriers to a career in the care sector. The work will also focus on raising the status of the careworker in West Sussex as a highly regarded member of this essential workforce. When these campaigns are completed, and following a thorough review and evaluation, the work is expected to be rolled out to a further round of communities in West Sussex.

Stronger Communities

John O'Brien
Highways and
Transport



12 Road Space Audit Task and Finish Group

In May 2016 the Cabinet Member announced his intention to commission an

Executive cross-party Highways Task and Finish Group (TFG) to explore and assess the requirements for Road Space Audits within West Sussex. A pilot audit was carried out in Chichester which looked beyond parking measures alone to meet current and future demands on the road network, the outcome defined how parking, sustainable transport infrastructure and future development can be integrated. The first meeting of the TFG has now been held and future meetings will explore the issue of parked cars on pavements and grass verges. The TFG will form recommendations for the Cabinet Member to consider in early 2017.

Stronger Communities

Christine Field Community Wellbeing



13 Seasonal Influenza Campaign

The Public Health Team is working to support this year's NHS seasonal influenza (flu) campaign to improve the uptake of the flu vaccination. This viral illness can lead to increased deaths in elderly and at-risk groups, increased emergency admissions to hospital, GP consultations, school absences, calls to 111 and outbreaks in care homes, leading to temporary home closures. Most cases in the UK occur during an eight to 10-week period during the winter and add to the pressures on NHS services. To reach the immunisation target of 75% in the over 65s in West Sussex, an additional 9,165 people will need to be vaccinated this year based on last year's figures. Other groups of eligible people are those in at-risk groups, including pregnant women, carers, children aged two to eight and frontline health and social care workers. Working with key partners on the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, this year's campaign will encourage everyone who is eligible for the free flu jab to take up the offer. More information on the winter flu vaccination is available on the [website](#).

14 Diabetes Prevention

Diabetes services in West Sussex need to be transformed in order to be sustainable, affordable and of high quality. The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the county are developing integrated services for those diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes and supporting them to self-care. Diabetes prevention requires a much stronger focus and the CCGs and the County Council have signed up to a new, centrally-funded, national prevention initiative, the [National Diabetes Prevention Programme](#) (NDPP). Led by the CCGs, with the County Council playing a supporting role, the aim of the programme is to identify people at risk of developing the condition and to offer them a 13-week programme of structured education, weight management and physical activity. GPs will use their practice registers and those identified at risk through the NHS Health Check Programme to refer people to the NDPP. Starting in September in the Coastal

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

(Links marked with an * are to documents in pdf format)

West Sussex CCG area, the Programme will roll out in Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG areas from January 2017. Wellbeing Hubs, which are supported by the County Council, also provide diabetes prevention, education and lifestyle support programmes and these will run alongside the NDPP.

15 Stoptober

The Cabinet Member confirmed support for [Stoptober](#) at an official launch attended by the West Sussex Stop Smoking Mobile Clinic at County Hall on 20 September. The Public Health England Stop Smoking challenge supports and encourages smokers across England towards quitting for good. Its call to action is for smokers to sign up to quitting smoking for 28 days on the national Stoptober website, which gives access to support such as, digital resources and local stop smoking services. In West Sussex, approximately 1,400 people die from smoking annually. This year to support the challenge, [Smokefree West Sussex](#) will be holding events across the county to give smokers the opportunity to sign-up to receive support. Roadshow events will be taking place in Chichester, Crawley, Worthing town centre and Worthing Hospital in partnership with its Respiratory Department. Workplaces, schools, GP surgeries, pharmacies and the wellbeing teams have been provided with resources and support directly from the local stop smoking teams. Smokers who would like to take part in the 28-day Stoptober challenge are encouraged to contact [Smokefree West Sussex](#) for support to quit.

16 West Sussex Traveller Transit Site at Westhampnett

Since May 2015 the County Council, as part of a [Multi-Agency Agreement*](#), has acted for all district and borough councils in respect of unauthorised encampments in the county. The site has had an occupancy level of 61% since it opened in March 2015. An education officer attends the site when children of a school age are staying and a Children and Family Centre Play Bus also visits. The library service provides books for both children and adults and health visitor and immunisation services are also made available. In its first year of operation the total number of unauthorised encampments in the county eligible for the site has fallen from approximately 116 to 68 and the number of days of the unauthorised encampments being in situ has fallen significantly from approximately 613 to 252. There is also a beneficial effect in the consistency of information and approach being taken by a single agency dealing with all unauthorised encampments and a signification reduction of court time and costs. Overall the transit site has provided a safe and secure place for people to stay whilst travelling through West Sussex helping to reduce the number of illegal encampments made and local tensions that may follow.

Stronger Communities

David Barling Residents' Services



17 West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service co-responding trial with South East Coast Ambulance Service

On 1 October West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service will begin a co-responding trial in partnership with South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb). The pilot will involve fire and rescue staff from the specialist Technical Rescue Unit, Crewing Optimisation Group and a group of flexi-duty officers. These staff currently work across West Sussex and all have successfully completed the new SECamb Immediate Emergency Care Responder course. Participating staff will respond to immediately life threatening calls, where a fire and rescue resource is nearer to the incident, and will always be supported by the nearest available SECamb resource. Findings and possible next steps of the West Sussex trial will feed into a national pilot and can be reported to the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee when the trial ends in summer 2017.

18 Trading Standards - Rogue Car Parking Traders at Gatwick Airport

Trading Standards continue to investigate rogue parking services at Gatwick, following a spike in complaints about dirty and damaged cars, missing items and even cars caught speeding whilst in the traders' possession. Trading Standards are obtaining evidence of possible fraud and consumer protection offences in relation to over 1,000 cars found at two unsecure fields which were being illegally used for parking cars. The level of potential criminality is such that the County Council has already acted under the Proceeds of Crime Act to obtain a restraint order on the assets of the businesses. Operation Hickory could be a significant investigation for the Trading Standards Service. The BBC highlighted the County Council's work on the ['Fake Britain'](#) programme recently.

19 Sussex Police Community Hub at Petworth Library

On 27 July the Cabinet Member attended the opening of the new Police Community Hub at Petworth Library, with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The Hub is an example of sharing community resources with Sussex Police. By utilising space at Petworth Library it means that police officers retain a presence in the community by providing a place for pre-arranged appointments with members of the public. It also provides a location for officers to hold surgeries at advertised times.

20 Broadband

On 26 September the Better Connected Stakeholder Engagement Group received

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

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confirmation that Contract 1 with BT is coming to a close. The contract achieved access to better, faster broadband for an extra 60,000 homes and businesses in West Sussex, 47,000 of which are able to access 'superfast' Broadband. The second phase of the contract aims to improve broadband coverage for a further 3,000 premises by the end of 2017. The Group was also informed that the Better Connected project team are now able to issue connectivity vouchers to premises receiving under 2mbps for a range of technologies including satellite, wireless and fibre, after the Government broadened its offer. The County Council is engaging broadband suppliers to explore opportunities and understand market challenges in the county. The Better Connected project team continues to review the options for those remaining areas not included in delivery plans.

Effective Council

Bob Lanzer Corporate Relations



21 National Customer Service Week

The County Council took part in National Customer Service Week (NCSW) from 3 to 7 October. NCSW celebrated the success and raised awareness of the County Council's activities to improve the customer experience. This year the County Council focused on digital services under the strap line 'Helping you to help yourself', with the aim of helping people to use its on-line facilities to access its services. This will support the County Council's aim to achieve its channel-shift targets, thereby meeting the needs of its residents using the resources it has available and to support people in West Sussex to become more digitally included. Some key highlights were:

- Mobile Pop-Ups were held at Worthing Library alongside Waste Management; the Find it Out Centre Bognor Regis; and the 'Full of Life Event' at Lavinia House Horsham to promote the County Council's Connect to Support website.
- A Digital Tea Party was held at Littlehampton Library to provide an opportunity to answer questions from people wanting tips on how to use smartphones, tablets and laptops.
- Back to the Floor; the County Council's leadership teams went 'back to the floor' to connect with customers and staff.

22 Webcast Service

The Cabinet Member is pleased to note the continued strong public interest in debates of the County Council and its committees through its webcast service. Since April 2014, meetings have generated a combined total of more

than 40,000 live and archive views. The highest figure, at 3,548 views, was for the County Council meeting on 19 January 2015, which included a response to the Airports Commission's consultation on airport capacity. Most recently, there were 2,002 viewers of the 22 July County Council meeting which included a debate on future of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. It is clear that the webcast service is a useful vehicle for keeping people informed.

Effective Council

Jeremy Hunt Finance



23 Government Consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention

The County Council has responded positively to a [government consultation*](#) on introducing 100% business rates retention by 2020. The proposal is an important step towards greater fiscal autonomy for local authorities. It will be a neutral financial change, with local government foregoing other funding streams and picking up new burdens to the same value as the additional business rate proceeds. In principle, the proposal will stimulate ambition and entrepreneurship within local authorities, allowing the proceeds of growth to be retained and enable a shift away from the provision of resources by central government. However, it also creates additional risk, especially for authorities like West Sussex with demographic pressures through the growth in demand for social care, by linking income to the business cycle. The County Council is therefore keen to see the Government's proposals on risk management (e.g. safety nets and appeals) to provide protection of the County Council's core services, such as its care services, against any sudden shock, for example from the economy producing sharp downturns on business rate proceeds.

24 Multi-year finance settlement offer and efficiency plan

The County Council has confirmed its acceptance of the [Government's offer*](#) to 'guarantee' the finance settlements up to 2019/20 and has submitted the required efficiency plans. It will be helpful for the County Council, in planning its Medium Term Financial Strategy, to have some certainty of the levels of government funding over the next four years. Funding is not guaranteed for those local authorities not accepting the offer. The offer from the Government covers the funding sources until (and including) 2019/20 as set out below:

Cabinet: Item 7(b)

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Funding item	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Funding included in the guarantee				
Revenue Support Grant	53.1	27.7	12.1	0
Business Rate Top Up Amount	40.7	41.5	42.7	41.5*
Transition Grant	6.2	6.3	n/a	n/a
Total (within guarantee)	100.0	75.5	54.8	41.5

*the top-up has been adjusted by a reduction of £2.6m

Whilst the Government's offer is welcomed, it does have its limitations. There is no protection against revision funding due to 'unforeseen circumstances', or a definition of those 'unforeseen circumstances'. The year 2019/20 is also subject to change from the implementation of the 100% business rate retentions scheme. The County Council has been clear that, whilst the certainty is welcomed, the fund on offer is still too low and it will continue to lobby the Government for any additional funding that might become available.

25 Audit opinion on the annual Statement of Accounts

The County Council's external auditor EY issued its audit opinion on the annual Statement of Accounts for both the County Council and the Pension Fund on 29 September. Auditors have given the County Council a clean bill of health for the seventh year running on both accounts and for value for money, confirming again its opinion that the County Council is a going concern with sound forward planning. The report comments on the systems, processes and financial health of the County Council, noting that its Annual Governance Statement provides a good agenda for improvement. The audited version of the accounts has been published on the County Council's [website*](#).

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Background Papers

None