

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE:  
SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING**

Portfolio	Support and Safeguarding
Ward(s) Affected:	All

**Purpose**

**To provide a progress report on the Support and Safeguarding Portfolio**

**1. Background**

1.1 The Support and Safeguarding covers the services and functions as set out below:

- Community Development/Voluntary Sector and Community Partnership – The Council Lottery
- Community Fund & Revenue Grants
- Community Safety
- Safeguarding
- Children’s Champion
- Equalities
- Information Management

**2. Community Development/Voluntary Sector and Community Partnership**

2.1 The Council has enabled and supported local Community development within Surrey Heath for over 20 years and there are many examples of the initiatives, such as the Surrey Heath Show, which exemplifies the good practice of community development, in supporting local for local at its best.

2.2 Another initiative that the Council Executive recently endorsed is the introduction of our own Community Lottery, which tickets will be available to buy from early June, and our first draw is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. This will enable anyone to purchase a weekly on-line ticket for the chance to win £25,000 with 60% of the funds raised being allocated to local good causes that register with the scheme or can be awarded through applications made to the council.

2.3 The aim is two-fold it is a way of providing a sustainable platform for the local community to develop in to the future, with individuals supporting local good causes, and better odds than the National Lottery to win a prize.

2.4 The Council are using the services of Gatherwell, an External Lottery Management Company licenced by the Gambling Commission who run lotteries on behalf of good causes in the UK. They presently run over 50 Council lotteries and offer the Council considerable experience and knowledge in this area.

**3. Revenue Grant Scheme**

3.1 The Council values the work undertaken by our voluntary organisations enormously and we operate two grant schemes available to help facilitate not for profit local services supporting those in need locally.

- 3.2 The Council have awarded revenue grants that cover the core costs for many years to those who the Council work in partnership, or those who deliver services on behalf of the Council.
- 3.3 This has annual expenditure of just under £160,000 plus £80,000 given in rent and parking subsidies as a benefit in kind.
- 3.4 In agreeing this annual award at the Executive meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 it was agreed to review the Council policy with the External Partnership Select Committee asked to review the process during the municipal year 19/20.

#### **4. Community Fund Grant Scheme**

- 4.1 To qualify for a grant from the Community Fund, applications must meet the Council's objectives from our 5 Year Strategy and must demonstrate a benefit to the local community. All awards are made at the discretion of the Executive, with all applicants coming from a not for profit organisation, together with all project recommendations for a grant must be well planned with a sound financial basis. The Executive also has the flexibility to add conditions to the awarding of any grants.
- 4.2 Information on the Community Grant scheme is provided on the Council's website and articles are regularly published in the Council's Heathscene magazine promoting successful awards. All decisions on grant awards rest with the Executive. Since this grant scheme started in 1997, just fewer than 300 grants have been offered, at an estimated cost of £700,000, this gives an average award value of £2,512. The scheme is open and invites applications twice a year on the 31<sup>st</sup> December and 30<sup>th</sup> June. Our most recent applications are outlined below:
- Surrey Heath Citizens Advice seek help to meet relocation costs in to Surrey Heath House,
  - Heatherside Community Association seek help to meet the costs to refurbish the kitchen with new door fronts, worktops and sink,
  - Bagshot Tennis Club seek help to contribute towards the cost of constructing a new 5<sup>th</sup> tennis court
  - Bisley Village Hall seek assistance towards meeting the cost of providing new customised windows in the chantry which is part of the main hall where the pre-school is located.

#### **5. Community Safety**

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act of 1998 placed a statutory duty on all local authorities together with their partnership agencies to develop and work together in dealing with local priorities and concerns. This is directed by the Surrey Heath Partnership who meets 3 times a year and is the overarching group that sets the strategic direction. This is supported by statutory and voluntary partners who collaboratively support the annual plans which are monitored and updated by the Partnership Officer Group. The CHaRMM (Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting) and the JAG (Joint Action Group) are the operational leads that manage the responsibility of the day to day incidents and risks of both people and place.
- 5.2 The original legislation has seen various changes with the most recent focussing upon the victim, the Crime and Policing Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014. A Council lead a multi-agency partnership project group introduced an all-encompassing Surrey Heath Public Space Protection Order for 3 years from October 2017. This provides

a framework of powers that both the Council and Surrey Police use to manage low level anti-social behaviour complaints.

## **6. Safeguarding**

- 6.1 The Surrey Heath team work hard to comply with the responsibilities relating to safe guarding. This is managed by the Executive Head of Transformation, Louise Livingston (in a capacity as the Council's lead officer for safeguarding) and the officers who are the safeguarding champions which comprises of representatives from services across SHBC.
- 6.2 The group met in January 2019 and reviewed and agreed a training framework which identifies all posts which require more than basic awareness training, and agreed a period of three years before refresher training is needed.
- 6.3 Face to face training on safeguarding adults and children was carried out for staff in the Community service team during November and December 2018, and SHBC is piloting a new 'Safeguarding Adults Essentials' course from Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board, in February 2019 for staff in Housing and Business teams.
- 6.4 Safeguarding Awareness training is provided for all staff via the shared Surrey e-learning portal. The course is currently being updated. It will then be rolled out to all staff that has not completed awareness training within the last three years and this will be monitored on an on-going quarterly basis.

## **7. Children's Champion**

- 7.1 My role as Surrey Heath's children's champion involves working with Council's lead in Safeguarding, Louise Livingston we work with Surrey County Council and the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board who have primacy in this area, but it is of equal importance is that our own practice and policies are current, and fit for purpose which the section 11 audit is carried out every 3 years.
- 7.2 I attended the Safe Drive Stay Alive Surrey on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at Dorking Halls. This is a thought provoking event where a series of live educational performances featuring a sequence of films and live speakers, which aim to make young people aware of their responsibilities as drivers, and passengers, whilst travelling, and to positively influence their attitudes in being responsible young drivers.
- 7.3 For Local Democracy week in October 2018, a workshop was hosted by the Surrey Heath Museum team where local schools were invited to come along and attend a mock council meeting in the chamber, students from: Holy Trinity, St Augustine's, The Grove and Cordwalles attended by over 75 pupils.
- 7.4 I was delighted to encourage the continuation of the Young Citizen event which took place at Collingwood College in November 2018, this was a unique opportunity to learn about: road and fire safety, anti-social behaviour, personal safety, alcohol awareness and healthy relationships, first aid and cyber safety all built around a drama production from Solomon Theatre Group entitled 'last orders' and over two days 335 year 7 pupils benefitted from the programme.

## 8. Equalities

### Internal Equalities and Diversity

- 8.1 At the last members Equality Working Group it was recommended that all Councillors attend an interactive Equality and Diversity training session. The purpose of this training session was to provide Councillors with the information and knowledge needed to understand and promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Whilst Equality and Diversity e-learning training has been provided in the past it was felt that running an interactive learning session would enable Members to discuss their door step challenges and build on their equalities and diversity understanding. These sessions were held during the summer of 2018 with very high attendance.
- 8.2 The Faith Forum (further information detailed below), at an Equality Working Group meeting, delivered an insightful presentation including an overview of the Forum's history and membership, a summary of activities carried out and forward look.
- 8.3 For information, Surrey Heath Borough Council will be applying for re- accreditation of the Disability Confident Committed certificate in April 2019.

### External - The Surrey Heath Faith Forum

- 8.4 The Faith Forum is a local group, and a newly constituted not for profit organisation (with a healthy membership of around 20 people) representing the diverse range of faith groups that operate and are based within Surrey Heath. At their first Annual AGM held on the 13th September 2018, where the Council were represented by Louise Livingston, Executive Head of Transformation and Emily Burrill the Family Support Team Manager who was invited to give a presentation on the Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme. At that time one family has been resettled in Surrey Heath, and another was added in January 2019 with another to be added by the end of March 2019, giving a total of three.
- 8.5 A key local issue which caused a delay has been to identify affordable housing for the families to live. To help the families to settle a dedicated Family Support Worker has been assigned to support in both Surrey Heath and Runnymede. The Faith Forum has assisted in providing key items that the families require.
- 8.6 The group sets an annual plan of project and events for the next financial year of 19/20 an example of these are:
- a) School Project - this project is based up offering a service to local schools whereby a discussion/presentation is made available focusing upon our British Values which are: democracy; individual liberty; the rule of law; mutual respect; tolerance of those with different faiths and belief, with each being defined and placed in a school context through the use of examples. The schools that have been visited are: Lakeside, The Grove, South Camberley, Ravenscote and others, plus Chobham St Lawrence, and Cordwalles.
  - b) Peace Day Celebration on Saturday 17th November between at West End, Parish Hall where over 100 people attended.

## 9. Information Management

### Freedom of Information

9.1 The last three years of Freedom of Information requests shows a steep increase from 2016/17 with the requests levelling off since then.

2016	2017	2018
846	1111	1132

Annexes:	None
Background Papers:	None
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