

Presentation – Parity for Disability

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To receive a presentation from Helene Abbiss, Community Support Director, Parity.

1. Background and Services Provided

- Parity exists because when young people with multiple disabilities leave full-time education, the services they received as children decline dramatically and they face isolation, frustration and loss of the skills they have learned. They can lose what movement they have, through lack of use. They can experience severe mental health issues and they can self-harm. For families a lack of services often results in 24/7 care responsibilities, putting a huge amount of pressure and emotional strain on family members.
- The Farnborough-based charity provides vital services five days a week for those with disabilities, their families and carers in Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire and beyond. Through Parity's three specialist day services in Farnborough, Camberley and Mytchett and fleet of six adapted minibuses, each of their 57 students shapes their own activities indoors and out. Students have the space, equipment and technologies they need to participate in activities and manage their day. Parity staff and facilities are equipped to meet complex care and communication needs.
- The majority of clients live with their families, and so family carers receive much-needed respite, reducing the risk of breakdown, illness and crisis.

Funding

- Parity for Disability has an annual turnover of £1.5 m per year, they operate with 67 employees and 106 volunteers that supports the office, centres and shops.
- This organisation has received regular support since 2015 for equipment and or services.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the presentation in relation to Surrey Heath any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers:

None

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