

## **Liz Mills Director of Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture**

I would like to thank Family Voice for the chance to speak at your AGM and provide some updates regarding actions we are carrying out to improve the experiences of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability and their families.

The work we have carried out or plan to includes:

**School places:** We want children to be able to attend a local school, that meets their needs, where they can be happy.

### **Update:**

- We have agreed to establish 883 additional specialist places in Surrey over the next 4 years and this includes agreement for a new special free school. This includes three new schools and additional units and centres attached to mainstream schools.

**Travel Assistance:** We want families to receive the right decisions regarding their eligibility for Travel Assistance and the level of support they need in their journeys to and from school. We also want to encourage independence in children when travelling to school wherever possible.

### **Update:**

- A public consultation is underway to inform the development of a new Travel Assistance policy.
- We are improving our offer of Independent travel training for young people.

**Preparing for Adulthood:** We want young people and families to know about their post 16 choices and increase the number of options they have available to them.

### **Update:**

- We have established a Next Steps Programme and we are working with three Further Education settings to increase what they offer to young people with SEND.
- We are developing more internships and supported apprenticeships with different partners.
- We are running events in November and December for families to help them to understand what is available to young people and what our plans to expand them are.

## **Graduated response & Early Years**

We want to ensure that children and young people receive the right level of support, when they need it. We also recognise that a large amount of our requests for Education, Health and Care Plan come for children in the 0-4 age range, so want to ensure we are doing everything we can to offer the right support as soon as possible in Early Years.

### **Update:**

- We have seconded a team of SENCO's to help us deliver, the graduated response.
- We have introduced the Local Learning Fund, which is a way schools can access resources, training, and develop existing support for children with SEN Support

needs. This has proven popular and we have already received a number of requests from schools.

**Local Offer:**

It is important that families and those working with them, know about the Local Offer website and find it an effective and easy way of finding support.

**Update:**

- We will be carrying out a project that will improve our current Local Offer website and this will include considering how to make sure it is up to date and easy to use.

**SEND front door:**

We want to ensure that families and practitioners find the right level of support as soon as possible.

**Update:**

We are in the early stages of having discussions about creating a SEND Front Door and considering how this could work in the best way for families and practitioners.

## **Liz Mills Director of Education, Lifelong Learning & Culture SEND Updates**

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The work we have carried out or plan to includes:

### **School places:**

- We will establish 883 additional specialist places in Surrey over the next 4 years.
- This includes agreement for three new special free schools.

### **Travel Assistance:**

- A public consultation is underway to inform the development of a new Travel Assistance policy.
- We are improving our offer of Independent travel training for young people.

### **Preparing for Adulthood:**

- We are working with three Further Education settings to increase what they offer to young people with SEND.
- We are developing more internships and supported apprenticeships with different partners.
- We are running events for families to help them to understand what is available and what our plans are.

### **Graduated response & Early years:**

- We have seconded a team of SENCO's to help us deliver, the graduated response.
- We have introduced the Local Learning Fund, which is a way schools can access resources, training, and develop existing support for children with SEN Support needs.

### **Local Offer:**

- We will be carrying out a project that will improve our current Local Offer website.
- This will include considering how to make sure it is up to date and easy to use.

### **SEND front door:**

- We are in the early stages of having discussions about creating a SEND Front Door and considering how this could work best for families and practitioners.