

Just a few notes and updates from County

You will know that we have been making great improvements in our Children's and Young People in care Service and at the end of March we had an Ofsted focused visit which was very positive.

They looked at two main parts of the Service:

1. The quality and effectiveness of assessments, care planning and the support provided to children and young people in care
2. The quality, timeliness and impact of supervision, management oversight and decision making, social work capacity and caseloads.

A quick summary. The experience of children in care has significantly improved. Voice of the children heard and responded to. Performance reporting is thorough. Reviews of arrangements for children and young people has improved and is being sustained. More stable and permanent workforce is in place. Visible changes in the culture of the organisation. Virtual school is having a positive impact on children and young people in relation to their education and wellbeing. Political and Corporate support, including investment is supporting practice improvement. There is more work needed to improve health assessments for children, placements for children that are not regulated and audits.

I hope that you will agree that huge steps have been taken over the last 3 years and we know that we are not there yet but were getting there. Officers and Councillors think this is a fair report.

Next the roads and Potholes and yes we know there are still many to be done. However we have now taken on 2 Velocity road patching machines across West Sussex to proactively see and fill potholes before the regular inspections of Highways teams. I understand that these machines will be used to fill potholes sizeable enough to need filling under safety criteria but also to repair defects likely to further deteriorate and reach that level in the near future. I and I am sure yourselves hope that this means they will actually fill holes close together where one is not quite deep enough at the moment. Such a waste of time and money not to do them both at the same time so here's hoping this is what will happen.

As you know there are 11 Parish's in my County division and of course for the Platinum Jubilee they all have events. I would love to say I would get to all but you know this is not possible but I will however try to show up at some of the events in my Parish's. For those I don't make I hope you all have a great day to remember.

I think I mentioned this last month but just to say that 9 out of 10 applications for young ones starting School got their first choice. Never such a happy picture for the 1 that didn't get first choice but I am sure they will be helped with a choice. If anyone needs me to take up their case for them I am of course happy to do so.

Those who have travelled to Horsham via Broadbridge Heath will have noticed that the new Fire Station is going along well there.

For those of you that I represent at Chichester District Council I know that Gareth will do a full set of notes for you.

I was pleased to visit the new units built in Chichester next to Westward House for short term homeless families and single people. There are 17 new units and with some refurbishment at Westward House we managed another 3 so that's 21 extra homeless units.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division

- CDC Councillor Loxwood ward

