

President: The Lady Baden-Powell CBE DL  
Vice President: John Walshe DL

Astolat, Coniers Way  
New Inn Lane  
Burpham  
GUILDFORD  
GU4 7HL

Tel: 01483 453962  
Fax: 01483 440508  
admin@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk  
www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

9<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Andy Roberts  
Director of Children & Families  
Surrey County Council

RE: Engagement on Proposals for a Surrey Alliance for Children, Young People & Families

Dear Andy,

The Proposals for a Surrey Alliance for Children Young people and Families were considered by a sub – committee of my Trustees yesterday, and we are grateful for the opportunity to comment, as follows:

1. The principle of having an Alliance and an Executive Group at county level **is supported** and we want to help make it be effective. We recognise the intention to have all the partner organisations “inside the tent” in the Alliance, and at county level this is bound to be a large group. We welcome the opportunity for the Voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector to have 3 seats in the main Alliance.
2. However the reality is that key decisions will be taken in the Executive Group. In the light of this **we regret** that there is no seat for the VCF sector in the Executive Group, and this is a widely held view in the sector. It is appreciated that the sector does not have a commissioning budget to command a seat at the table, but it is very familiar with needs, and is also of course a major provider of services. In the case of young people we **are the main provider** of services to young people outside the school and college day.

Moreover our strategic analysis is that SCC/PCT will need to commission more services from the sector as the statutory sector faces budget cuts for 3-5 years, regardless of national or local Government politics. The challenge will be to commission more value added services from the voluntary sector, and to lever out its contribution by more concerted joint action. This will require a different style of partnership working.

3. For all these reasons we consider that the VCF sector should have one seat on the Commissioning Executive Group, and **urge you to make this change**.
4. The definition of the role of the 4 (or 3) Locality Partnerships is less clear. As you know the Area Boards have not worked well with the exception of the SW Board. We fear that unless there is a clearer remit for the Localities and an accompanying budget, that they too will not be effective. The

reference to the Localities at para 2.2.3 is an insufficient basis for comments as the remit, scope of decision – making, and budget are not specified. However our instinct is view is that the Locality Alliance of some 25 people is likely to be large and unwieldy. The same point applies about the VCFS being on the Locality Executive Group as mentioned above in relation to the county level.

As we both know this is a significant point in the development of the governance of the C&YP arrangements in Surrey, and we urge you to reflect carefully on these points, as the new arrangements will need to be in existence for some time, and, more importantly, to work well to the benefit of children and young people.

With Best Wishes,

Mike

Mike Abbott  
Chief Executive  
Surrey Youth Focus

Mrs Sarah Goad JP  
Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey

The Rt Rev The Bishop of Guildford  
Representing All Faiths

*Patrons:*  
Lady Toulson CBE  
High Sheriff of Surrey 2008/9

Professor Christopher Snowden  
Vice-Chancellor of University of Surrey

Douglas Robertson CBE, DL  
Chairman of Surrey PCT

Mrs Angela Fraser DL  
Chairman of Surrey County Council

Mark Rowley  
Chief Constable of Surrey



