

From: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services

To: Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee – 5
December 2013

Subject: **Petition Scheme Debate**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of a petition received which will be the subject of a debate, in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme.

Recommendation: The Cabinet Committee is invited to comment to the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services in respect of this petition.

For Decision

Introduction

1. (1) In accordance with the Petition Scheme agreed at the County Council meeting on 13 September 2012, any petition on a County Council matter which has more than 2,500 signatures will trigger a debate at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

(2) The process for the debate on each petition is that the lead petitioner/s will be invited to speak to the petition for a total of 5 minutes. There will then be a debate of up to 45 Minutes (with each Member speaking for no more than 3 minutes) before the Cabinet Member is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes. As the subject matter of this petition relates to a matter which is the responsibility of the Council's Executive, the Cabinet Committee can decide whether to make a recommendation to the relevant Cabinet Member to inform the decision-making process.

Petitions – 'Save our Sure Starts'

2. (1) Two petitions requesting that Kent County Council commit to keeping every Sure Start Children's Centre open and fully funded for every family in Kent have been received. The County Council received these petitions from separate sources but, as they use identical wording, has added together the signatures on each to make a total of 3,234 signatures, thus triggering a debate at a Cabinet Committee.

(2) Supporting written statements from the lead petitioners, Cllr Jenny Matterface and Ms Frances Rehal, are attached as Appendices 1a and 1b. Cllr Matterface and Ms Rehal will be attending the meeting and are arranging speakers to address the Committee about the petition.

(3) A report by the Corporate Director of Families and Social Care on Shaping the Future of Children's Centres in Kent is the next item of business on the agenda, and consideration of this report will follow the petition debate.

RECOMMENDATION

3. The Cabinet Committee is invited to comment to the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services in respect of this petition.

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Background Documents: None