

FOCUS



www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

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Ofsted slams Surrey over vulnerable children

Surrey County Council Ofsted Review 2008

Vulnerable children and
young people at risk
or requiring safeguarding

Pass	Fail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Those with learning
difficulties and/or
disabilities

Pass	Fail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Capacity for the Council
to improve these services

Pass	Fail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

INADEQUATE

ACTION : Leader of Surrey County
Council must resign

**Vulnerable young people
in Surrey are being failed
by children's services at
Conservative controlled
County Hall, according to
a damning Ofsted report.**

Three out of five areas
covered in the report have
been described as
inadequate – the worst
possible ranking. As a
result the Lib Dems have
called upon the Tory leader
of the Council to resign.

A press statement has been issued by Julia Kirkland, FOCUS team member and resident of Ruxley Ward :

"Many of the underlying problems highlighted in this report such as lack of respite care, too much reliance of agency staff and a limited range of preventative services have been known for years, but the Conservative administration failed to act. The report highlights appalling failures and Surrey's residents deserve better. It's a shame that Cllr Nick Skellett, the Leader of the Council throughout the period leading up to this report, did not resign as soon as the news broke."

A key issue highlighted was the inadequate provision of Criminal Records Bureau checks – a national requirement for anyone working with children and young people. Ofsted noted :

"Although the council state in their self-assessment that all staff are robustly CRB checked, this information is false, with high numbers of staff identified by the human resources database as either not having had CRB checks or three yearly re-checks".

NOTE : Surrey County Council is run by the Conservatives. The Lib Dems are the main Opposition.

LIB DEM PETITION COULD SAVE £150M

At present the European Parliament has two homes – one in Brussels and the other in Strasbourg. Every month all 732 MEPs with staff and trunks full of files have to make the trip from Brussels to Strasbourg. "It is a total waste of taxpayers' money" says Sharon Bowles MEP "there need only be one seat in Brussels and this would stop the monthly fiasco of travelling to Strasbourg." Sign up at www.oneseat.eu



A swing suitable for teenagers costs about £9000 to buy and install with safety surfacing

COUNCIL ABANDONS PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR TEENAGERS IN COURT REC

Lib Dem Councillor Jonathan Lees, who lives in Heatherside Road, was horrified when the council decided to abandon a policy to provide teenage play equipment in Court Recreation Ground. Cllr Lees told FOCUS "There's enough money in the budget to go ahead with spending the £20,000 promised and I tried hard to persuade the Leisure Committee to hold firm on the proposals because 11-19 year olds are supposed to be one of the council's top priorities. Yet again, Residents Association councillors have backtracked on their own policy."

ALLOTMENTS ARE ON THE AGENDA

"There are now 168 people on the waiting list for an allotment in Epsom & Ewell" says **FOCUS team member Julia Kirkland**. Lib Dem councillors made sure that the problem was highlighted and the council has now agreed to tighten the rules of tenancy and create 60 new plots. Developers of the West Park and St Ebba's sites have also been asked to set aside an area for allotments.



FOCUS team member
Julia Kirkland

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR EPSOM

County Councillor Colin Taylor persuaded Surrey County Council's Local Committee to provide £5000 toward lights which helped fund a decent display. The borough council gave £6000 and local businesses put in the rest of the money.

"TODAY" PROGRAMME PRAISES VINCE

Whilst interviewing Alastair Darling and Conservative treasury spokesman George Osborne on the Radio 4 programme on 29th September, Evan Davies gave both a dressing down for their economic failures. Davies cited the record of Vince Cable, Lib Dem MP for Twickenham and snapped back : **"It sounds to me like I should vote for Vince Cable. Vince Cable was against demutualising the building societies back in the 1990s when your government was doing that. Vince Cable was sending me as an economic editor emails every three weeks about the levels of debt through the last five years and he has been instrumental in saying that the taxpayer needs to be protected, and nationalising the banks, and in having the upside risks as well as the downside ones, are the way to go. Why, if I'm angry, would I vote for you over him?"** Why indeed!

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I can help deliver FOCUS in my road

I would like to know more about Epsom & Ewell Lib Dems

I am attaching a letter with my ideas, suggestions or grumbles