



Ashtead Independents

Keep national party politics out of local government

Kids Club & Ashtead Youth Centre

9th November 2012 by Chris Townsend

After some considerable discussion and negotiation the following statement has been produced. There is still more work to be done over the coming months but we have an agreed approach and some stability for the Kids Club.

Joint statement from Surrey County Council and Ashtead Kids Club –

We want to reassure the community that the provision of Ashtead Kids Club will continue at Ashtead youth centre until suitable alternative premises are found. This joint statement sets out the background to the proposed relocation and ongoing joint work to find alternative premises.

In December 2011, Surrey County Council agreed a policy to maximise the use of its youth centres by young people in line with the council's legal duties. Additionally the Government has recently changed the law, requiring young people to participate in education and training up to age 18. This means that the council needs the space at Ashtead Youth Centre to support, educate and train young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Whilst Surrey County Council is increasing support for young people through the use of youth centres, this does present a policy tension and is necessarily balanced with other duties, such as the duty to secure sufficient childcare to meet local need. The county council will not therefore act in a way which reduces childcare in Ashtead.

Ashtead Kids Club will continue to operate at the youth centre until a suitable new location has been found. The value that the club provides to the community is recognised and we wish to remind all residents that we will continue to work collaboratively to explore options and to find a solution.

Yours Sincerely

Garath Symonds
Assistant Director

Chris Townsend
County Councillor

Louise Ditrana
Ashtead Kids Club for Young People