Report for Parishes East Sussex County Councillor - October 2017

As I'm sure you have all heard, there is to be a 12 week public consultation on reorganisation of Libraries across the county. 7 out of 24 libraries are proposed for closure with the mobile library, to save £653,000. But the Home Library Service will continue and a new community library card will be available. The libraries remaining open will have enhanced services, and Hastings and Battle libraries have already been refurbished and modernised.

Pupils in East Sussex will benefit from a £250,00 funding boost aimed at raising teaching standards , improving attendance, and reducing exclusions in secondary schools, particularly aimed at disadvantaged and SEN pupils. A Secondary Inclusion Partnership will be set up which will enable schools to work together to improve these areas.

ESCC has launched a hard hitting campaign warning parents that every school day missed has an impact on children's education and chances in life. The authority wants parents to be fined for unauthorised absences, including taking holidays during term time. During the last school year, the number of prosecutions for non attendance at schools increased almost 3 fold on the previous year, with more than £27,000 in fines issued by the courts. The campaign will run throughout the year on buses, radio, and social media.

Illegal school parkers can now expect penalty charge notices on their windscreen or in the post. These will be issued by ESCC civil enforcement officers (CEOs) . This is aimed at drivers who park on zigzag lines or "keep clear" markings. The aim is to get rid of congestion outside schools. Illegal parking is a hazard to other people. This will occur in Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes district where ESCC is responsible for civil parking.

Pregnant women, new mums, and their partners can benefit from a free app called the "Baby Buddy" app, aimed at helping with the transition to parenthood. Around 10-20% of women experience mental health problems during the first 12 months of pregnancy and birth, meaning around 900 new mothers are possibly affected each year. The app can help with issues such as bonding, social isolation, and breast feeding, it also helps with appointment reminders, and can keep a list of questions for their midwife or health visitor. This app has the NHS logo on it and mums feel they can trust it.

The "One You" service to boost health is a one-stop shop launched to help people with risky behaviours like smoking, drugs, excessive drinking, unhealthy eating and inactivity. These issues increase the chances of developing long term illness. People who sign up will be given an individual assessment, and a personalised health plan with support best suited to them eg a health coach, group support or telephone or online support. Unhealthy behaviours put people at risk of diabetes, cancer and heart disease. "One You" offers individual support tailored to the individual.

Anyone over 16, or child smokers over 12, can sign up at www.oneyoueastsussex.org.uk or 01273 404600

Sandy Berwald, who heads up ESCC Special Placement Scheme is to receive the "outstanding Contribution by a Social Worker" award in the Fostering Excellence Awards. The service provides specialised training for foster carers. Sandy, who set up the Special Placement Scheme 25 years ago, was praised for her dedication to foster carers.

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