

CPOR questions – 20 May 2020

Councillor	Question	Directed to	Answer provided
Kirke	<p>Page 24 - Children's Social Care</p> <p>Notwithstanding the importance of this provision there is a £3.4M overspend, with placement costs alone up by £2.6M.</p> <p>In 2010 The University of Hertfordshire commissioned research (Brian Littlechild & Helen Sender) that engaged with Restorative Justice (RJ) approaches in young people's residential units. Both young people and staff identified many benefits including conflict resolution, sharing feelings and resolving problems.</p> <p>What is BFC's engagement with early intervention family orientated RJ & can it be used to more effectively to reduce subsequent placements?</p>	Assistant Director: Children's Social Care	<p>Family Safeguarding is our operating model. Numbers of children becoming looked after has reduced.</p> <p>The council budgets for changes in high cost, volatile service areas through a single corporate contingency rather than allocating estimated amounts of funding to individual services. When costs are confirmed, then decisions are taken on moving money out of the contingency to where it is actually needed. The CSC placements budgets were based on who was in care in January 2019, plus taking out anyone that turns 18 in the next financial year so it always looks like an overspend until the contingency allocates additional resource, which was ultimately agreed at financial year end at £2.5m.</p>
Kirke	<p>Page 31 - 4.3.07 – Health improvement services “Weight management services” – can I have an example please?</p> <p>Can we make better links to our parks & open spaces as places to exercise?</p>	Consultant in Public Health	<p>The Wellbeing and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panel have started their review on Healthy Eating, Activity and Exercise. Public Health developed an extensive evidence pack that responded to this for O&S and is available for you to access.</p>
Kirke	<p>Page 32 - Quarterly indicators:</p> <p>L310 – number of people accessing online public health services.</p> <p>Why is this performance weak?</p> <p>Remedial actions?</p>	Consultant in Public Health	<p>This indicator is no longer relevant as we have now got a better way of measuring public health social media success which will be available for next reporting period.</p>
Temperton	<p>Climate Change Strategy. I thought this was an excellent meeting on March 10. Will there be any other chance to view the Climate Change Strategy now being written before it is put to Council in July. It was agreed there would be a follow-up meeting.</p>	Executive Director: Delivery	<p>The strategy has been delayed by 4 months and isn't now expected to be presented to Council until 2021. However further opportunity will be given to the Commission in January, although it is expected that further member meetings will have taken place before this date to confirm the strategic pillars of this work.</p>
Temperton	<p>3.1 Accounts 18/19 Have these now been signed off?</p>	Director: Resources	<p>The 2018/19 accounts were formally signed off on 9 March 2020.</p>
Temperton	<p>3.2 When will the report on the transferring of the Downshire Homes properties back to the council be presented and to whom?</p>	Director: Resources / Assistant Director: Early Help & Communities	<p>Assistant Director: Early Help & Communities has indicated that at this stage she cannot respond re timescales. Initial discussions have been held re legal implications and the need for further external advice from Counsel. We will form an officer working group to progress this work – there may well be dependencies between the legal and financial implications.</p> <p>The Executive made the decision re. establishing a local housing company on 31 March 2015 so it would be the Executive considering changes.</p>
Temperton	<p>In both Adults Social Care and Mental health and out of Hours reports it mentions over spends due to “reduction in the budget in respect of transformation”.</p> <p>Does this mean that assumed savings were over optimistic during the transformation evaluations?</p>	Assistant Director: Mental Health & Out of Hours	<p>The budget was set on high level analysis of the level of savings that could be reasonably be expected as a result of transformation of services, based on experience to date and analysis of benchmarked unit costs with other authorities. In reality it has been found that working up the details of how these savings can be delivered is more complicated than anticipated. Whilst the transformation savings were not delivered in 19/20 there is still an expectation that they will be in the future, though the Covid pandemic has proved a further hindrance to progressing plans.</p>

Temperton	1.2.09 South Hill Park Draft SLA Expected to be adopted 1/04/20 has this been completed?	Assistant Director: Customer Experience, Digital and ICT	The Draft SLA with South Hill Park is not in place.
Temperton	4.3.07 Is it time for a new project to be introduced to tackle the alcohol consumption of women in BF that is leading to the high number with liver cancer?	Consultant in Public Health	<p>This work was originally scheduled for Q1, however, work responding to COVID-19 has become a priority. Development of a 'Data Pack' that provides the relevant data analysis remains priority as alcohol consumption believed to increase Covid19. Revised timescale Q2 (July).</p> <p>Aim of this work is to analyse of alcohol related cancer mortality and Hospital Episode Data to provide, to update the local picture of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of need for alcohol treatment and the availability of provision. This is designed to support the commissioning of local services for alcohol treatment and rehabilitation and will provide a starting point for changes in practice. • Develop a framework for the commissioning and provision of treatment for hazardous, harmful and dependent drinkers, including people with mental illness, homeless people and drug users who also misuse alcohol. • Understand the impact of alcohol consumption by gender in terms of mortality and morbidity and thus guide the development of targeted messaging to at risk groups to change behaviours around consumption of alcohol.
Temperton	L312 why is the number of nights in B&B so high 1,012? page 34	Assistant Director: Early Help & Communities	<p>The Introduction of the Rough Sleepers Initiative within the borough, in line with the Government's ambition to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eradicate rough sleeping by 2027, has required the team to be set up at speed and to secure placements to enable them to initially assess rough sleepers. This has often required placement in b&b for single individuals due to the their support needs and as such has contributed to the number of nights in b&b increasing.</p> <p>The introduction of Homelessness Reduction Act also placed additional duties on Local Authorities which extended to single people and the relief duty period was extended to 56 days. This has contributed to the number of b&b placements increasing as b&b placements may last longer than previously. Whilst the team work to effectively assess and support customers to secure more suitable accommodation longer term, this is not always possible due to the customer's support needs and availability of alternative suitable accommodation.</p> <p>We have continued to only place single people in B&B – this is not an option used for families. In total 26 single people were accommodated specifically as a result of covid one of which has moved to private rented accommodation with the support from the team.</p>
Temperton	L202 The number of families turned around through 'Family focus' project is 0 but the target is 20. What has happened?	Assistant Director: Early Help & Communities	The Council does not have to claim every quarter and we rolled up one quarter's claim into the next due to staffing capacity as this is an intensive process
Temperton	L290 'Rate' of referral to children's social care What does 'rate' refer to?	Assistant Director: Children's Social Care	It is Rate per 10,000 – i.e. for every 10,000 children under the age of 17 years in Bracknell Forest the rate per 10k for Q4 was 146.5 – for every 10,000 children we would have received 146 referrals for example