

Council Meeting – 7th October 2020

Written Answers Provided To Member Questions

Questions of Councillor Angela Argenzio to Councillor Abtisam Mohamed (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Q.1 What steps is Sheffield City Council taking to ensure that school children are not sent home unnecessarily when displaying seasonal colds and ailments without showing Covid symptoms?

- A.1
- Sheffield schools have been provided with information to help with management of symptoms and to support parents/carers with this. This includes a Quick Guide for parents/carers which is being distributed to schools this week and a symptom infographic which has been shared across all settings.
 - In addition schools have had the opportunity to be part of a webinar with the Local Authority Public Health team to support them with questions such as symptom identification and management.
 - It is challenging for schools to monitor and manage this – particularly in relation to asymptomatic cases

Q.2 What is SCC doing to deter schools from excluding children from their education when they do not display symptoms of Covid 19 but may have symptoms of other ailments, putting pressure on families to lie to get them tested to return them to school as soon as possible?

- A.2
- All schools follow a PHE Standard Operating Procedure which was recently adapted to ensure that risk management is used to support identification of those pupils whom are asked to self isolate.
 - Clear guidance on identification of a contact is used and followed – provided by technical PH risk assessment from the LA PH team where required.
 - Secondary settings are now all using contact identification so as to ensure those who are at increased risk and have been identified as a contact are only asked to isolate. No longer are secondary schools following a model where full year groups isolate unless contact tracing is not possible.

- Settings are becoming very able and capable at the risk management model. Headteachers have been provided with a clear definition of what a contact is and are using this definition to assess risk robustly.
- In primary settings where bubbles are being used guidance has been issued locally to enable schools to implement measures to limit the number of pupils and staff who will need to self isolate. This includes limiting movement in and out of bubbles so as to maintain the integrity of the bubble. Having clear and fixed bubbles. Also staff having identified work place areas to reduce mixing and to ensure staff work within a fixed bubble model.

Question of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof to Councillor Bob Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) to be answered by Councillor Jones

Q.1 When is the delayed work on Western Road due to start? The state of the roadway and footpaths need urgent maintenance to see through another winter?

A.1 Works to Western Rd are programmed to start on site on November 2nd with an expected duration of 6 weeks. The works include both footway and carriageway reconstruction.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)

Q.1 What has the cost been to the Council to remove fly tipping waste, for each month since January 2020?

A.1 Original Response:
We do not have this information as the majority of fly tipping is on the Highway network, the management of which is part of the PFI with Amey. The Council pays an overarching management fee to Amey which includes the capital investment in new street lighting and road surfacing as well as day to day maintenance such as fly tipping and litter removal.

We can provide the figures using DEFRA benchmark values – but these have also changed this year, so we need to update and can provide written response.

Written Response:
This question needs to be kept live, because we are still awaiting the DEFRA benchmark.

Question of Councillor Mick Rooney to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Q.1 Given the rise in Covid-19 infections in the City, what support is in place to ensure that care homes are well protected, and for potential eventualities?

A.1 Support to Care Homes and Communities has been ongoing throughout the crisis and will continue to be in place. Local Response Teams were established to support those in the community who were shielding. As the numbers of those shielding has reduced the demand has fallen; however the mechanism remains in place and could be scaled up again if demand showed that to be necessary – for example in further lockdowns.

SCC STIT services and provider Care Homes, Homecare, Supported Living and PA's has seen a wide range of support tailored to their needs; including support with some issues which, although not strictly in the remit of the Council to resolve, we have provided support with because the care experience people in Sheffield receive is our main focus.

Working with Health and Public Health we are proactively offering advice and guidance to Care Home providers (as independent businesses) with an emphasis on supporting safe visiting wherever possible. We are about to share simplified guidance and a 'My Visiting Plan' risk assessment tool to help staff in care homes to ensure that every residents' visiting needs are understood, the risks for them individually assessed and, wherever possible, mitigated to enable safe visiting that is essential to their wellbeing and quality of life.

Support given and in place

- Sharing advice and guidance to support providers respond to COVID19
- Single point of contact for providers so we can keep communication flowing and be available when providers have concerns
- Support with staffing when providers have had difficulties due to sickness, isolation or recruitment challenges
- Support with PPE; including advice and guidance and the sourcing of reasonably priced products; before central government made this free for many we guaranteed providers 7days supply on request
- Regular contact with providers locally and with care provider owners weekly call, forums for feedback
- Business Intelligence support so the COVID19 impacts are clearly understood; monitoring of those who are experiencing difficulties and targeted support to help them adapt to a new way of working
- Financial support which has included both SCC money (5% fee uplift in the beginning and support with additional costs not

covered by ICF) and money provided by central government to be made available to the care sector – a combined total of over 10 million pounds up to September alone with more committed.

- Remittance advices of payments made to help with cash flow in care homes
- Supporting providers to develop a sustainable response has been key; the market was changing and will change even more now due to COVID19.
- Reviewed and tested our process for supporting providers in difficulty
- Working jointly with Health Partners to provide a co-ordinated response
- Reviewed and tested SCC response in the event efforts prove unsuccessful and a provider has to give notice to cease. SCC is accountable for the residents and ensuring continuity of care and a person-centred process of re-provision in such circumstances.

Dialogue with providers is key and we have been invested and redirected significant resource into this throughout the last 7 months. providers have been working very hard to protect those they provide care for and to mitigate the impact of the virus for vulnerable people and their staff and communities.

Questions of Councillor Jayne Dunn to Councillor George Lindars-Hammond (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Q.1 How we are going to support those shielding, in care homes and those receiving home care? At this time, they must be a priority and given assurances as such.

A.1 See response above.