

County Council 23 November 2017

Agenda Item

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- 10 **CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS**
Written questions and answers attached

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Questions for County Council Meeting Thursday 23 November 2017

Question to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services from Mr Chaudhary Ditta:

The Children's Centre for my division is the Hampden Way Centre in Totteridge. I receive very positive feedback about this Centre and am concerned about current consultation. I would like an update on the outcome of the consultation as soon as the results have been analysed.

I am sure that many Members are in this situation that they want to be briefed as early as possible.

Q1 How many parents and children use the Hampden Way Centre in Totteridge and how frequently and when do the Management Committee meet?

- *There are 979 children under the age of 5 living in the catchment area*
- *Of the 979 64.16% (628 children) are registered with the Children's Centre*
- *38.27% of children (375) in the catchment area have had at least one contact in the past 12 months*
- *19.49% of children (191) in the catchment area have had at least five contacts in the past 12 months*
- *There are 7 families that are being worked with on a targeted level.*

Hampden Way is part of the Wycombe cluster managed by Action for Children. The advisory board meets quarterly and the last meeting was on the 16th November

Question to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services from Julia Wassell

We have been in contact regarding the Micklefield Children's Centre and I remain unconvinced that this service is running as a Children's Centre. Micklefield is an area of deprivation and has a high referral rate to Children's Social Services.

Q2 Can you confirm which Children's Centre parents and children from Micklefield are now attending the Micklefield Children's Centre?

This is known as Wycombe (East) children's centre, on the Ash Hill School site in the Micklefield Ward. Services are run jointly with Wycombe (Hampden Way) therefore families from Micklefield Ward will go to both Wycombe (East) and Wycombe (Hampden Way) centres. Some families will choose to access services elsewhere in Wycombe as a personal choice/preference. Children's Centres were recommissioned in 2014 and service delivery is in line with the specifications set at the time.

Q3 On their website Action for Children say that they manage two additional buildings as well as five Children's Centres in High Wycombe. Can you clarify the names of these Centres and additional buildings?

The following Children's Centres are in Wycombe and run by Action for Children:

- *Hazlemere and Loudwater Children's Centre*
- *Stokenchurch and Hambleden Valley Children's Centre*
- *Wooburn Green and Bourne End Children's Centre*
- *Wycombe Castlefield Children's Centre*
- *Wycombe (East) Children's Centre (Locally known as Ash Hill and/or Micklefield)*
- *Wycombe (Hampden Way) Children's Centre*

The following are also run by Action for Children but sit outside Wycombe:

- *Marlow Children's Centre*
- *Risborough Children's Centre*

The 2 additional buildings are the satellites:

- *Wycombe Marlow Satellite (known locally as Foxes Piece)*
- *Wycombe Stokenchurch and Hambleden Valley Satellite (known locally as Lane End).*

Question to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills from Julia Wassell

A parent that I represent has raised a concern about the lack of opportunity to study triple science in secondary schools in Buckinghamshire. She has told me that two schools in her catchment area Sir William Ramsay and Holmer Green do not offer Chemistry.

Q4 What is the County Council's view and actions to ensure that all young people, including those who do not secure a 6th form place in a Grammar school, can study chemistry and thereby aspire to a certain careers at University such as Medicine?

All students have to study some science up to the age of 16. The key stage 4 science and computing curricula are compulsory in maintained schools, and academies are required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including English, maths and science, up to the age of 16.

Sir William Ramsey School and Holmer Green Senior School offer science at Key Stage 4 as a combined science or three separate subjects and both of these schools are non-selective. At sixth form Holmer Green offer Chemistry, Physics and Biology, and Sir William Ramsey offer Physics and Biology.

We work closely with schools to ensure they are choosing the qualifications best suited to their pupils and all but 6 of our 37 mainstream secondary schools had at least some pupils entering for all 3 of GCSE biology, chemistry and physics in 2017.

Although many universities specify A level Chemistry as a mandatory entry requirement for a medicine undergraduate course, this is not the case for all

universities. In Buckinghamshire most of our schools offer access to A level Chemistry and at A level in 2017 there were 31 of our mainstream schools (out of 35) that had at least 1 pupil with a result in either A level or AS level Chemistry.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills from Mr N Hussain

Q5 What are the qualifying rates & numbers of children for the secondary selection test otherwise known as 11+ broken down by each Buckinghamshire district, & demographically over last three years?

Information to support Q5

In 2017, 11083 children sat the test of whom 6423 were Buckinghamshire residents. Overall, 3389 children qualified of these 1590 were Buckinghamshire residents. Within each district of the county the test outcomes were as follows:

- *Aylesbury Vale: 1876 sat the test, 390 qualified (21%)*
- *Chiltern: 1015 sat the test, 467 qualified (46%)*
- *Wycombe: 1893 sat the test, 476 qualified (25%)*
- *South Bucks: 629 sat the test, 257 qualified (41%)*

The September 2017 data has not yet been analysed in relation to Free School Meal and ethnicity data. However for 2016 the data showed:

| Sept 2016 intake | Number | | Percentage | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Qualified | Not qualified | Qualified | Not qualified |
| Free School Meals | | | | |
| Eligible | 32 | 270 | 10.6% | 89.4% |
| Non-eligible | 2254 | 3559 | 38.8% | 61.2% |
| No FSM data | 1106 | 1972 | 35.9% | 64.1% |
| Total | 3392 | 5801 | 36.9% | 63.1% |
| Ethnicity | Qualified | Not qualified | Qualified | Not qualified |
| BME | 931 | 1226 | 43.2% | 56.8% |
| White British | 1322 | 2575 | 33.9% | 66.1% |
| Not obtained/Refused | 38 | 38 | 50.0% | 50.0% |
| No ethnicity data | 1101 | 1962 | 35.9% | 64.1% |
| Total | 3392 | 5801 | 36.9% | 63.1% |

In 2016, 10691 children sat the test of which 6361 were Buckinghamshire residents. Overall, 3392 children qualified of these 1660 were Buckinghamshire residents. Within each district of the county the test outcomes were as follows:

- *Aylesbury Vale: 1894 sat the test, 424 qualified (22%)*
- *Chiltern: 1054 sat the test, 450 qualified (43%)*
- *Wycombe: 1890 sat the test, 531 qualified (28%)*
- *South Bucks: 657 sat the test, 255 qualified (39%)*

In 2015, 10082 children sat the test of which 6312 were Buckinghamshire residents. Overall, 3090 children qualified of these 1573 were Buckinghamshire residents. Within each district of the county the test outcomes were as follows:

- *Aylesbury Vale: 1846 sat the test, 397 qualified (22%)*
- *Chiltern: 1091 sat the test, 498 qualified (46%)*

- *Wycombe: 1885 sat the test, 446 qualified (24%)*
- *South Bucks: 610 sat the test, 232 qualified (38%)*

Q6 What is the number of children on Grammar and Upper school rolls, again with Aylesbury in particular?

The numbers of pupils on roll at Aylesbury Grammar schools is 3,800 (Aylesbury Grammar, Aylesbury High school and Sir Henry Floyd Grammar school)

The numbers of pupils on roll at Aylesbury Upper schools is 3,141 (Aylesbury Vale Academy, The Grange and Mandeville school)

Q7 What are the number of secondary schools rated grade 3 (requires improvement) or below in Buckinghamshire? And, can you provide the number and name of schools in Aylesbury?

There are three Secondary Schools currently rated as inadequate in Buckinghamshire and a further six Schools rated as requires improvement.

In the Aylesbury Vale area, Aylesbury Vale Academy is rated Inadequate and Buckinghamshire University Technical College, Mandeville school and the Grange school are rated requires Improvement

Question for the Cabinet Member for Resources from Julia Wassell

The last update on old High Wycombe Library was that £900k needed spending on it for compliance with Health and Safety and other requirements.

Q8 Could you kindly update me about progress for future use of the old High Wycombe Library?

The former 1930s library in High Wycombe is to be renovated and restored.

Remodelling that retains the former library's neo-Georgian and Art Deco features will involve roof restoration, refurbishing windows, replacing the electrical circuits, heating system and toilets, installing a lift, and conversions to make the building accessible.

The aim is to adapt the two-storey building in Queen Victoria Road for a wide range of purposes, from offices to community use, in a sensitive and creative way that preserves its historical looks so that it continues to blend with its contemporaries, the neighbouring police station and district council offices.

Progress to date:

- *we've removed the covenant*
- *repaired the roof to ensure it is wind and watertight, and*
- *removed asbestos from the building.*

We are currently awaiting a licence from Wycombe District Council for access to the rear of the building. Once received, we will submit a planning application for 'change of use' from library to offices.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement from Mr Carl Etholen

Buckinghamshire Time Credits have been successfully developed since April 2014 through the Prevention Matters programme.

The Time Credits in Buckinghamshire have met agreed objectives over the lifetime of the contract which I believe runs until the end of March 2018 and yet indications are that these Time credits will be decommissioned as they have not fulfilled the criteria.

So many voluntary organisations have signed up to this throughout the County so they can give something back to those who run services without any recompense.

Q9 Can the Cabinet Portfolio Holder please confirm that the Time Credits scheme which is coming to an end in the new financial year will not be continued and if so why?

Spice Innovations has been commissioned as part of the County Council's Prevention Matters Programme since April 2014 to grow a local time-banking network where volunteers get rewarded for their time with 'Time Credits' which they can 'spend' across a variety of opportunities within Buckinghamshire and nationally. The local activity to grow the network has been supported by the Council's Community Links Officers and the Time Credits team with the aim of creating more capacity in our local communities to prevent people requiring Adult Social Care services.

Buckinghamshire County Council is not intending to retender the service again when the contract ends at the beginning of April 2018 because evaluation by Prevention Matters has shown that the time banking as a supporting tool has not achieved the specific programme objectives. . Prevention Matters has truly valued the opportunity provided by Time Credits to show volunteers how grateful we are for the invaluable work they do to help provide activities and services across the County, however, our appraisal of this work does not show a correlation between an increase in volunteers to the service offer of time banking and believe that this is therefore not a contributing factor to becoming a volunteer across local preventative services within the county.

Further at the end of September 2017, 1,098 volunteers had earned 62,255 Time Credits since the start of the Prevention Matters Time Credits partnership but only 10,585 (17%) had been spent. Feedback has suggested that despite significant work and efforts, it has not been possible to develop enough suitable local spend opportunities. Should the time-banking service not be retendered, or the current provider not be successful if the service was retendered, volunteers will still be able to 'spend' the Time Credits they have already earned in London and across the national Time Credits spend network.

The contract with Spice Time Credits was renewed in April 2015, updating the contract to allow for further investment and giving ample opportunity to see if it was supporting the desired objectives through a sustainable delivery model - utilising the support of the Community Links Officers.

