

# Questions for County Council Meeting 26 July 2018

## *Questions to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services from Mr D Hayday:*

**Q1 Could I have sight of the Cabinet Member decision notice or the report supporting the use of an outside consultant with all costs attached?**

The decision to use an outside consultancy company, BMG Research, was an operational matter taken by officers under delegated powers in accordance with the Council's Constitution. A formal Cabinet Member decision and/or report is not therefore available.

**Q2 Does the company which has been given the contract meet Buckinghamshire County Council's safeguarding guidelines?**

The contract between Buckinghamshire County Council and BMG Research has been entered into under the County Council's standard terms and conditions; this includes meeting the Council's safeguarding standards.

**Q3 Is it correct to state that nothing would be done before October? If not, when was the decision made to undertake the second-round public consultation which is using an outside organisation?**

Prior to public consultation, BMG Research has been carrying out pre-consultation research. The purpose of this work is to undertake further research on the needs of families and partners to inform the public consultation exercise.

**Q4 Will Buckinghamshire County Council provide childcare for parents attending the second round of in-depth questioning when filling in the questionnaires?**

A written questionnaire (online and in hardcopy) will be available for residents and partners to complete at a time that is convenient to them during the 10 week consultation starting in October 2018.

We want to ensure that everyone is able to participate fully and will consider any childcare needs as part of the planning for public meetings.

Further details about the consultation process and the different ways that residents can take part will be published on the Council's website at the start of the consultation. See here for latest information: [www.buckscc.gov.uk/earlyhelp](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/earlyhelp)

**Q5 Please could you explain the rationale behind the decision to meet with vulnerable people in buildings they may not be familiar with?**

Every effort has been made to ensure volunteer participants in the consultation are made to feel as comfortable as possible in attending these interviews.

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