

HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

From Ms Sue Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group (*Replies in italics*)

1. BROMLEY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2013/14; 2014/15; & 2015/16.

- (a) In 2013/14, what was:-
- (i) The figure for the budget? £12,600,800
 - (ii) The under-spend carried forward? £769k
 - (iii) This under-spend used for in 2014/15? (Please give breakdown)
£98k *Weight Management*, £431k *CAMHS*, £240k *Children's Centres*
- (b) In 2014/15, what was the figure for the budget? £12,953,600
- (c) Was there an under-spend? (If so, how much?) £141k
- (d) What is the Budget for 2015/16? £12,953,600
- (e) Has this been cut? No

2. PROVISION OF ADEQUATE NUTRITION DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR BROMLEY CHILDREN ASSESSED AS NEEDING FREE SCHOOL MEALS. (Ref. Appendix 1 – Answers to CCPG Public Questions to 15th April 2015 HSSC)

Adequate nutrition for the thousands of children at risk of malnutrition and food poverty is a Public Health issue. That the majority of children are not at risk is not an excuse to do nothing.

Why does the Director of Public Health not introduce initiatives for provision during school holidays?

During term time there are free school meals for children in school, and cookery classes offered through Children and Family Centres. The cookery classes aim to support mothers of young children in cooking healthy nutritious meals on a low budget. Although the classes do not run during the school holidays, the skills gained in the cookery classes should help to support adequate nutrition for children at risk of malnutrition.

Since September 2014 practical cooking and food education has been compulsory in the new curriculum for pupils up to the end of Key Stage 3. Schools actively involve parents in cooking and gardening clubs. Parents and children learn and develop food knowledge and cookery skills together which can be implemented in the home environment.

In addition the Healthy Start scheme provides vouchers directly to families where there are children at risk of malnutrition. A brief description is below.

Healthy Start scheme

If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, the Healthy Start scheme can help you buy basic foods like milk or fruit. You will qualify for the Healthy Start scheme if either:

- you're at least 10 weeks pregnant
- you have at least 1 child under 4 years old

In addition, you must be receiving any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but only if your family's annual income is £16,190 or less)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit (but only if your family is receiving the 4 week 'run-on' payment)
- You'll also be eligible for the Healthy Start scheme if you're pregnant and under 18, even if you don't receive any benefits.

Working Tax Credit run-on is the payment you receive for a further 4 weeks immediately after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit. If you qualify for the scheme you'll be sent vouchers to spend on:

- milk
- fresh fruit and vegetables
- plain frozen fruit and vegetables
- infant formula

You get 1 voucher a week if:

- you're pregnant
- have a child aged between 1 and 4

You get 2 vouchers a week if you have a child under 1.

3. THE ROLE OF INTERMEDIATE CARE BED PROVISION IN ALLOWING PATIENTS NEEDING REHABILITATION TO BE MOVED OUT OF HOSPITAL ACUTE BEDS, AND BACK TO THEIR HOMES. (Ref. Min.54 'Winter Pressures – CCG Update). Bromley Care Services are to be congratulated on their ability to avoid delayed discharges at the PRUH.

(a) What role does the provision of Intermediate Care Beds play in this?

This service is jointly commissioned by the Council and Bromley CCG and provides a holistic service to people who are not yet able to return home but who no longer need acute health interventions. This enables us to provide a multi-disciplinary approach enabling the service user/patient to regain their independence before they go home.

(b) When will we see a report on the performance of the Intermediate Care contract at Lauriston House on an agenda?

The service is monitored by the Bromley CCG on behalf of the CCG and the Council at the BHC Contract Management Board. Bromley CCG has recently commissioned consultancy support to review the discharge pathway and rehabilitation provision. Bromley CCG has engaged with the Council as a key partner in the review and transformation process and will share the outcomes of the work at the appropriate forums as it progresses.