

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Written Questions to the Health and Wellbeing Board received from Mrs Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group**

With regard to 'The State of Child Health' report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health published on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017:

- 1) The RCPCH reports that "those from the most deprived backgrounds experience much worse health, compared to the most affluent".

Although Bromley has identified areas of serious deprivation in the borough, why does the Council not link this issue, and identify the actions needed to ameliorate the effects of poverty?

- 2) The RCPCH explains that poor nutrition, caused by poverty produces obesity, along with other factors, linked to poverty.

Does the Director of Public Health acknowledge the relationship?

- 3) Besides removing barriers to provision of free food by Bromley Foodbanks, like the commercial rent the Council charges Orpington Foodbank, what other steps should the Council take to improve nutrition for poor Bromley children?

**Answers:**

1) Deprivation is taken into account when providing health services in the Borough. Community Health Services such as Health Visitors allocate the Health Visiting staff to areas using a formula which uses indicators of deprivation. Addressing inequalities in health, including those due to deprivation, is part of the role of Community Health Services.

2) The causes of obesity are complex. Although it is true that obesity rates are higher in more deprived areas, this will also be linked to physical exercise and eating behaviour as well as nutrition.

3) Health Visitors work closely with the staff in the Children and Family Centres. These centres work hard to engage families from more deprived areas. Parenting groups include information about nutrition and this is also part of the role of the Health Visitor. All Health Visitors and Children and Family Centre staff have been trained in supporting young families around nutrition.