

COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Peter Holyoake, London Energy Risk, to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Residents with children in Borough schools are all in support of “improving the air quality and reducing emissions” – particularly outside schools. At present Bromley has no PM2.5 air quality monitors accessible on-line. What initiatives will Bromley take to install on-line PM2.5 monitors outside schools and other traffic hot spots?

Reply:

Currently London Boroughs are expected to report on PM 10 (in relation to particulate matter) only and there is no requirement to report on, or monitor PM 2.5. However, whilst Bromley meets the current objectives set for both PM 10 and PM 2.5 (35 µg/m³), the limits set by the WHO are lower (10 µg/m³), and there is a requirement for London Boroughs to work towards meeting the lower limits by 2030. Bromley’s levels are below 13 µg/m³ and it is anticipated that by 2030 that the lower limits will be met. As such, there are no specific plans to install these particular monitors. The draft Air Quality Action Plan is due to go out for consultation in early April 2020, and this will include all action points to meet particulate matter, and to improve air quality around schools in general.

2. From Dave Marshall to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Will the Portfolio Holder consider an amendment to the times of parking restrictions near to the Bromley Reform Synagogue at Highland Road? On Saturdays the Shabbat services starts at 10:30 and does not usually end until 13:00, but parking restrictions restrict parking between 12-2. It would be helpful to the community who use the Synagogue if the times of this restriction could be changed to e.g. 13:00 to 15:00.

Reply:

The parking restrictions are in place in the main to protect parking for residents living in this vicinity, so changing the hours to allow for Synagogue visitors to park would negate this purpose. Also, Highland Road is part of the much wider Bromley Town Centre CPZ, which has standard hours of operation across the whole outer zone, so changing this in just one part would not be possible.

There is however a fair amount of free parking in the area and The Hill Car Park, which has plenty of available space on a Saturday, is approximately a 10 -15 minute walk from the Synagogue.

3. From Dave Marshall to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

What progress has been made about appointing a Director of Children's Services to replace Ade Adetosoye?

Reply:

The Director of Children's Services role is currently being held by an interim who with her leadership team successfully transformed our children's services. The leadership roles are permanently staffed apart from the Director role which is currently being re-advertised, having not being able to appoint first time following the selection interview late last year. The Current advert for the post closes on 3rd March 2020 followed thereafter by the officer and Member/Council interviews. The latter is scheduled for the week commencing 30th of March.

4. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

What percentage of social workers currently employed in Bromley's Children's Services are on permanent contracts and what percentage are on temporary contracts?

Reply:

Currently, we are averaging 82% permanent children's Social workers.

No local authority would have 100% permanent staff and across London the average permanent workforce is around 68% so for us in Bromley we have done incredibly well.

5. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

An initial special-needs assessment with a Development Paediatrician is a crucial step towards assessing any special-needs provision for a child. Would the Portfolio Holder please provide average and maximum waiting times for Development Paediatrician appointments in the borough from 1 Oct – 31 Dec 2020?

Reply:

Not every child that has additional needs will require a specialist Paediatric Assessment and this would be determined by health colleagues.

Our CCG colleagues have confirmed the following:

The Community Paediatrics Service offers advice for every child undergoing an education, health and care (EHC) needs assessment.

For the very limited time period in question 61% of assessments were carried out within the target of 6 weeks. However the preceding period showed rates of 90.4% and 91.9%. Performance is monitored regularly through CCG contract monitoring to understand the data and where there is a change this is remedied quickly.

Average wait for an appointment for Community Paediatrician following receipt of referral for EHC Needs assessment: 3.7 weeks.

Maximum wait for appointment for Community Paediatrician following receipt of referral for EHC Needs assessment: 16 weeks.

The Designated Clinical Officer for SEND is working very closely with the service to ensure that it complies with statutory requirements for health.

Children with special education needs who are being supported but who **do not** have an education, health and care plan can access a range of different health services including Community Paediatrics. Not all children will require a developmental assessment from community paediatrics as this will be dependent on individual presentation and professional judgement.

In this instance the average waiting times for an initial assessment with a Community Paediatrician in a Bromley (for all children and young people) is 8.8 weeks with the longest wait time recorded as 17.29 weeks.

6. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

At the Council meeting in December 2018, the Portfolio Holder undertook to liaise with the parents with children at the Unicorn school who had been campaigning for a weatherproof path from where the lollipop lady stands at the junction of South Eden Park Road with Cresswell Drive across the grass to Eden Park Avenue between the two football pitches exiting by the side of St Johns Church. Please state how much contact he has had with this parents' group (for whom I provided email addresses) and what progress has been made towards providing this path.

Reply:

Bromley's Road Safety team are currently working with the school on updating their plan and have encouraged them to work towards gold this year. However, the current School Travel Plan does not mention the proposal for the path, so perhaps parents have not discussed the matter with the school nor sought support.

7. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What assistance has the Council been able to offer the residents of Northpoint who have the same type of cladding as Grenfell Tower on their building? While this is a central government issue there is still a role for the Council including supporting the residents and ensuring interim safety measures are in place with the fire service.

Reply:

Officers in Planning, Building Control and Public Protection have worked closely with Northpoint Directors, not only to ensure that safety measures (which fall within the Council's remit) were progressed, but also to assist with progression of the ACM funding application with government.