

Council

12th July 2021

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

1. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Please provide details of Holiday Activity & Food grant income and expenditure to date. Please also provide the criteria used for determination of these Holiday Activity & Family grant awards.

Reply:

Bromley has been allocated up to £808k from the DfE to run the Holiday Activities and Food programme for Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021. Actual grant draw down from DfE is subject to activity providers meeting the restrictive grant requirements for eligible provision and is likely to be lower.

Expenditure to date:

During Easter, the national restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic and late notification of the grant conditions impacted on planned provision. A programme of activities ran at four youth hubs in the borough, with specific activities for our children looked after.

For Easter, the total spend was £27,278.

Our estimated spend for the summer is anticipated to be c£300k. The extension of the Covid Local Support Grant may impact on take up of activities.

Bidding process & timelines:

- Expression of interest process widely publicised on Bromley council website and school circular
- The team wrote directly to organisations that had enquired about the HAF programme
- Evaluations took place w/c 7th June and included an evaluation panel scoring process with colleagues from Education, SEN, Procurement, Public Health & Commissioning

Criteria used for determination of HAF grant awards:

- Legal compliance (safeguarding, health and safety, food standards, etc)
- 4/4/4 rule of provision (at least 4 weeks, 4 hours per day, for 4 days a week)
- Estimated cost per head
- Daily capacity numbers & ability to upscale
- Booking system & venue.

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement

Please provide a breakdown of the duties of the Council's Ward Security operation, including their responsibilities, powers and duties, the hours worked and how their time is allocated across the Borough.

Reply:

Ward Security are a sub-contractor to Veolia as part of the Street Environment Contract. Their role is to ensure the Council provides a safe environment for visitors to its parks and open spaces, through a programme of patrols and enforcement measures. Ward Security investigate, resolve and take action against offences in the public realm, this can include littering offences, unlawful encampments and Fly-tipping. Acting on behalf of the Council Ward Security have the powers to enforce against Bye Laws and Public Spaces Protection Orders.

A routine programme of patrols inclusive of Mobile Dog Handler and Security Personnel is agreed with the Council to ensure there is a reactive patrol service, all Parks, Open spaces, Countryside sites and Public Highway safe and secure, and seasonal variations is considered.

The Borough is split into four patrolling areas to ensure coverage of all parks and open spaces across the Service. Those four patrol shifts vary depending on daylight hours (e.g. 1330-2300hrs presently phasing incrementally each month to 1100-1900hrs during winter) and other service exigencies (e.g. Bonfire/Fireworks Night).

3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide a table showing the total value of the Council's Earmarked Reserves at the 31 March in each of the years 2015 to 2021.

Reply:

| Financial Year-ending | Total Value of Earmarked Reserves (£k) |
|------------------------------|---|
| 31/3/15 | 111,061 |
| 31/3/16 | 101,696 |
| 31/3/17 | 102,496 |
| 31/3/18 | 125,997 |
| 31/3/19 | 149,606 |
| 31/3/20* | 167,525 |
| 31/3/21* | 269,753 ** |

*These are draft figures and subject to external audit

** This balance includes £63,407k which the Council was required to account for as a Reserve, but where equivalent spend will be incurred during 2021/22. A further £2,662k represents a grant received during 2020/21 that will be used to fund costs that will accrue during 2022/23. It is also important to recognise that, similar to many other authorities the set aside reserves have increased to partly address the future impact of the 'new normal' for 2021/22 and future years – the Government has not provided any guarantee of additional funding from 2022/23 to deal with the impact of the 'new normal'.

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

What checks are made on contractors (during the contract term) in relation to health & safety compliance and whether employee's terms and conditions of employment are being upheld?

Reply:

The approach to contract management will vary depending on a number of factors: the nature of the contract and the service it is delivering; the value and risk of the contract; the requirements of the specification; and the capacity and resource of the client team who have ownership of the contract.

For example, for contracts within the Environment and Public Protection Department, as well as the general contractual requirement on all providers to record and inform the Council of any issues arising, Health and Safety is a standing agenda item for all contract meetings with providers, with statistics and any significant issues raised at both Departmental and Corporate Health and Safety Boards. Health and Safety forms part of the contract monitoring checklist for works or site visits made by Contract Managers which includes considering both the operational arrangements visibly in place as well as the conduct of staff.

Similarly, the Performance Monitoring Team in the People Department also include a detailed Health and Safety checklist when conducting monitoring visits to registered care settings, as well reviewing Health and Safety arrangements through monitoring visits and provider meetings as part of their Quality Assurance Framework. In addition, they also undertake sample checks on employee files to ensure that appropriate recruitment procedures are in place as well as staff supervision and training.

5. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Please provide the following information in relation to planning applications called in for decision at committee since the beginning of 2021:-

- Ward
- Application reference number
- Officer's Recommendation
- Committee Decision

- Name of Councillor activating call in.

Reply:

Attached is a table of all cases determined or scheduled for committee in 2021 subject to call in with the detail requested ([Appendix 1.](#))

6. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Please provide the number of new referrals to Children’s Services from 2018 to present, broken down by ward. Please provide the number of child safeguarding referrals for the same period, also broken down by ward.

Reply:

Please see two tables below, the first showing the number of all contacts made to Social Care through the MASH and the second table for actual referrals to Social Care for the reporting years (April to March) 2018/19 to date.

For both tables, the number referred to is the actual number of contacts and referrals, not the number of children, so will potentially include multiple instances for a child. The tables include all contacts/referrals in the reporting years, and it is possible some children may have had previous instances of a contact or referral, so may not technically be ‘new’ to social care in that sense.

Please note that due to reporting constraints, there is not a direct correlation between the contacts and the referrals, for example, some referrals will commence via another route rather than coming through the MASH.

| Contacts by Ward | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | Apr 21 to date | Grand total |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bickley | 176 | 250 | 262 | 103 | 791 |
| Biggin Hill | 186 | 241 | 275 | 76 | 778 |
| Bromley Common and Keston | 461 | 524 | 624 | 147 | 1756 |
| Bromley Town | 366 | 433 | 497 | 133 | 1429 |
| Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom | 203 | 239 | 258 | 73 | 773 |
| Chislehurst | 197 | 261 | 297 | 88 | 843 |
| Clock House | 286 | 310 | 369 | 93 | 1058 |
| Copers Cope | 252 | 245 | 306 | 111 | 914 |
| Cray Valley East | 706 | 850 | 958 | 285 | 2799 |
| Cray Valley West | 823 | 915 | 1070 | 231 | 3039 |
| Crystal Palace | 392 | 441 | 571 | 168 | 1572 |
| Darwin | 49 | 95 | 158 | 28 | 330 |
| Farnborough and Crofton | 240 | 326 | 303 | 82 | 951 |
| Hayes and Coney Hall | 224 | 230 | 322 | 88 | 864 |
| Kelsey and Eden Park | 256 | 322 | 292 | 89 | 959 |
| Mottingham and Chislehurst North | 571 | 651 | 743 | 193 | 2158 |
| Orpington | 523 | 581 | 612 | 157 | 1873 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Penge and Cator | 615 | 645 | 769 | 176 | 2205 |
| Petts Wood and Knoll | 131 | 157 | 201 | 55 | 544 |
| Plaistow and Sundridge | 392 | 428 | 571 | 159 | 1550 |
| Shortlands | 127 | 152 | 155 | 45 | 479 |
| West Wickham | 139 | 179 | 216 | 71 | 605 |
| Other LA | 62 | 79 | 89 | 38 | 268 |
| Unknown | 286 | 306 | 359 | 138 | 1089 |
| Total | 7663 | 8860 | 10277 | 2827 | |

| Referrals by Ward | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | Apr 21 to date | Grand total |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| Bickley | 51 | 102 | 100 | 52 | 305 |
| Biggin Hill | 73 | 74 | 96 | 19 | 262 |
| Bromley Common and Keston | 174 | 224 | 195 | 50 | 643 |
| Bromley Town | 139 | 171 | 147 | 54 | 511 |
| Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom | 120 | 131 | 105 | 21 | 377 |
| Chislehurst | 68 | 103 | 94 | 33 | 298 |
| Clock House | 102 | 125 | 100 | 39 | 366 |
| Copers Cope | 98 | 106 | 110 | 46 | 360 |
| Cray Valley East | 274 | 340 | 371 | 95 | 1080 |
| Cray Valley West | 358 | 378 | 394 | 89 | 1219 |
| Crystal Palace | 122 | 174 | 185 | 60 | 541 |
| Darwin | 10 | 46 | 72 | 8 | 136 |
| Farnborough and Crofton | 95 | 133 | 95 | 25 | 348 |
| Hayes and Coney Hall | 85 | 115 | 131 | 37 | 368 |
| Kelsey and Eden Park | 108 | 129 | 104 | 25 | 366 |
| Mottingham and Chislehurst North | 241 | 264 | 271 | 74 | 850 |
| Orpington | 224 | 257 | 230 | 48 | 759 |
| Penge and Cator | 209 | 246 | 300 | 58 | 813 |
| Petts Wood and Knoll | 44 | 72 | 78 | 17 | 211 |
| Plaistow and Sundridge | 127 | 181 | 152 | 62 | 522 |
| Shortlands | 65 | 63 | 53 | 13 | 194 |
| West Wickham | 74 | 73 | 68 | 23 | 238 |
| Other LA | 189 | 123 | 120 | 22 | 454 |
| Unknown | 323 | 269 | 218 | 27 | 837 |
| Total | 3373 | 3899 | 3789 | 997 | |

7. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Have LBB completed and returned the National Youth Sector Census? If so, please share a copy with members, and if not, please explain why not.

Reply:

I can confirm that the census was returned with the timescales required. A copy is not retained as once the forms are completed and you press send it goes back to the central address/requester.

8. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

If he give the following information on families currently in temporary accommodation following application as homeless –

- i top five reasons for application
- ii previous accommodation – rental, owned, living with relatives/friends;
- iii average age of main applicant;
- iv number of single persons;
- v number single with children;
- vi number with partner but no children;
- vii number with partner and children;
- viii total number of children housed

Number whose previous place of residence was -

- i L.B.Bromley;
- ii other London Borough;
- iii England;
- iv rest of UK;
- v overseas.

Reply:

The information requested is set out in the attached spreadsheet ([Appendix 2.](#))

9. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

If he will set out in table format the following information regarding the temporary accommodation for homeless families.

i Location: Number placed in accommodation in -

- L.B.Bromley;
- other London borough,
- Kent (including Medway Unity Authority);
- other neighbouring counties and districts to Greater London,
- rest of England,
- Scotland,

- Wales,
- Northern Ireland
- overseas.

ii Accommodation:

- L.B. Bromley,
- housing association,
- private sector,
- bed and breakfast
- other.

iii Weekly cost by number of bedrooms.

Reply:

The information requested is set out in the attached spreadsheet ([Appendix 2.](#))