

Council

11th April 2022

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

Please provide details of the process used to determine whether an adult with learning difficulties should be cared for in Residential Care, Supported Living or be supported to live at home.

Reply:

The first step is a formal Care Act assessment to determine an individual's eligibility for services as well as their need's, outcomes and any risks that may need addressing. If we consider that an individual's needs are too high or too complex to be managed within their own home through the provision of a Care Package or Direct Payments, alternatives will be discussed. Extra Care (ECH) or supported housing would be the next consideration, as these options offer a home from home solution where clients with learning disabilities can develop independence skills whilst being within an environment where they can still receive care and support. If an individual requires a more intense level of support during the day or has presenting needs during the night, consideration would be given to a residential care home for younger adults with LD.

If a person has capacity they will be fully engaged in decision making about their care and support needs, however if they lack capacity they may require a family member or a Care Act advocate to support decision making. There may be a need for a 'Best Interest' meeting if there are objections. Once all parties are in agreement the Care Manager will write up and share the Assessment of need and Support Plan and take the request through the Departments Authorisation process before referring to ECH or Supported Housing or ask the Central Placements Team to provide some residential placement options to the to the client, their family or representative.

2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

The 2019/20 Annual Report from the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board refers to the Board taking the decision to commission a Safeguarding Adults Review relating to a care home in the borough, with a hope that it will be published in early 2021. Why has it taken so long to produce this report and when will it be published on the BSAB website?

Reply:

This relates to a historic safeguarding adult review, which was raised as an organisational safeguarding concern. The review has been complex as it involved many agencies, with parallel investigations dealing with historic issues. Once signed off the review will be reported as part of the next Annual Review of the BSAB, and consideration will be given as to how it is published, as is the agreed policy. It is important to note that actions from the SAR have been implemented and are monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board.

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

The Beckenham Lace was a dedicated gift to the former Borough of Beckenham, recognising the many deaths and suffering inflicted on its citizens due to bombing in the Second World War. Can the Portfolio Holder please explain why it was decided to display it in Bromley Public Library, and not in a public building in Beckenham, such as the foyer of the Public Halls, or Beckenham Library.

Reply:

Mounted and framed, Battle of Britain Lace panels are huge, standing at almost 5 metres in height. The ground floor ceiling height in the Beckenham Public Hall entrance foyer is 3.3m and in the stairwell, the floor to cornice span is 4.64metres which does not provide enough space. When considering other possible locations in Bromley buildings, we had to consider that the conservation grade frame will project forward 20cm which creates further restrictions on the location, and that the location needs to be accessible in a public space. Bromley Central Library has therefore been found to be the most suitable, if only suitable, location.

4. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

How many "no idling" signs or other signs which encourage drivers to switch off their engines while stationary, has the Council put up in the last four years.

Reply:

We currently have 115 signs installed in the Borough to enable Anti-Idling enforcement to take place. We have also provided 32 banners for schools to place on railings to promote the Anti-Idling campaign.

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

How long is it taking to review applications for the Bromley household support fund and make decisions?

Reply:

We are currently awaiting Government guidance for the latest tranche of these monies and will advise accordingly at point. As per the answers at the previous Council meetings, all applications under the scheme have already been dealt with.

6. From Cllr Ryan Thompson to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

How many pollution monitoring devices does Bromley Council own outright?

Reply:

Permanent Air Quality Monitoring Equipment owned by LBB:

- 1 x PM10 analyser
- 1 x PM2.5 analyser
- 1 x NOx analyser

LBB also have a network of 32 sites where we expose 'one-use' diffusion tubes. Once the tubes are analysed in a laboratory, the results provide the monthly exposure to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) at that location. LBB purchase the tubes and their analysis in bulk through a contract.

7. From Cllr Ryan Thompson to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Can the Portfolio Holder please confirm how often pollution is actively measured in each ward using pollution monitoring devices?

Reply:

Air Pollution is monitored within the Boroughs Air Quality Management Area. The Borough's permanent monitoring station is on Harwood Avenue and contains the equipment listed in the answer to the previous question.

In addition, there are 32 locations for diffusion tubes measuring NO_x currently operational in the Borough. The tubes are changed monthly.

All collected air quality data from these monitoring locations are presented in the Borough's Annual Status Report (ASR). Copies of the ASRs are available on LBBs website. Please note that these reports are produced a year in arrears due to the time it takes to collate and ratify data before the reports are finalised. We are currently working on preparing the ASR for last year, 2021.

The Borough has 2 Node (low cost) air quality analysers. These are provided and located by the Breathe London Project. Further information on the actions planned and taken to improve air quality in the Borough are detailed in the Borough's Air Quality Action Plan

To protect public safety, there are arrangements and provision for air quality monitoring in civil emergencies, e.g., large fires, gas or fume releases. These facilities are provided by the London Fire Brigade in emergency scenarios.

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

If he will make a statement about the condition of the West Wickham Leisure Centre and future proposals for a Leisure Centre in West Wickham?

Reply:

The leisure centre building is coming to the end of its life. Officers have been working on options for its refurbishment and will be bringing this to committee this summer.

9. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What proposals there are to improve the junction at The Avenue, Mead Way and Pickhurst Rise and at the junction of The Avenue and Goodhart Way West Wickham following the meeting between ward councillors, local residents and council officers on February 8th?

Reply:

Although there are minimal injury collisions at the junction of The Avenue with Mead Way, it has been established that a series of minor collisions have taken place here involving vehicles turning right from Mead way into Pickhurst Lane failing to give way to cars going ahead from The Avenue into Mead Way. Officers are discussing options with TfL, who are responsible for signals across London. No improvements have been identified as yet.

In regard to the junction of The Avenue with Goodhart Way, the Council is seeking to identify funding to install a speed activated sign to encourage southbound drivers to slow as they approach this junction, it is likely this will depend on the response from TfL to future bids for funding.