

COUNCIL
18 October 2016

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

1. Councillor Dunbar

What plans do we have to strengthen mental health provision locally, given that the Government doesn't take the issue seriously with mental health trusts subjected to cuts of £600m and almost 5,000 fewer specialist psychiatry nurses since 2010?

Answer

Bradford Mental Health services are working together in an integrated way to try and strengthen services and mitigate the effects of the financial pressures that we are all subject to. Locally the following issues are being developed to strengthen MH services:

- Bradford has used the national initiative the 'Crisis Care Concordat' to bring all agencies together to agree an integrated approach to improving crisis services across the NHS, Council and Police. This has been recognised as one of the most successful projects nationally and we now have a co-ordinated 'whole system approach' with developments such as health and social care staff in the police station, 2 new crisis support centres in the Voluntary Sector and an integrated crisis response team operating 24hrs.
- Bradford is developing a comprehensive and integrated mental health strategy, due to be completed in November 2016. This is designed to implement the national Five Year Forward view from the NHS and the expectations of the Care Act. It covers all providers and commissioners and develops a strategy for issues such as physical and mental health, perinatal mental health, personalised care and support, crisis services and community services.
- Bradford health and social care community has been a key part of an application for West Yorkshire to be a 'Vanguard' site for urgent and emergency care, with mental health being a vital part of this. This has led to some extra funding for projects such as a safe space for young people in MH crisis, the 'Sanctuary' out of hours crisis centre and the 'Haven' a daytime community project for people in crisis or in A and E.
- Bradford has had particular success with our MH employment support services recently and we are looking at how to continue with this over the next few years.
- Our next project is to review and redevelop our community mental health services. These are integrated health and social care teams.

As you can see, Bradford is making a great deal of effort to reduce the effects of any reduction in funding by imaginative integrated development of services. As an example, we have worked together to reduce the number of people in acute care hospitals, especially those private or out of area. This has led to a reduction in expenditure for the MH Trust. The local authority has led on a project to place more people in supported accommodation rather than institutional care, leading to better outcomes and reduced costs.

Supplementary Question

Thanks to the Portfolio Holder for the answer. I think it is right to say that we should celebrate the work that is done around the Crisis Care Concordat the soon to be published integrated mental health strategy and the work with the voluntary sector and particularly one event that was held in this Chamber a few months ago around young people and mental health which the Lord Mayor hosted. My question to the Portfolio Holder is despite this Government's clear lack of regard for mental health services and investment into that service how much are we actually struggling as a result of that lack of investment?

Councillor Val Slater

Thank you Councillor Dunbar. I think the Government are failing. They are not facing up to the real issues across the whole of the health and social care sector. There are simply not enough money and funding and this particularly applies to mental health which is why I am pleased to tell everybody that the Crisis Concordat that Richard mentioned and is mentioned in the actual report, we have just won a very prestigious award at the National Positive Practice Awards and it is actually showing what we can do in Bradford when we are forced into that position. All I can say is we are doing really brilliant work but think about what we could achieve if we only had the right level of funding.

2. Councillor Pennington

In light of the endless sound of blue light sirens in the City Centre, rightly or wrongly giving visitors the impression of a City gripped by lawlessness, would the Leader of the Council consider bringing pressure to bear on the services in question, for a more discreet approach where possible?

Answer

Auxiliary warning systems (lights and sirens) are used by police, fire and ambulance service drivers to provide an enhanced warning to other road users when responding to emergency calls. The sole purpose of this equipment is to maximise the safety of the public, other road users and the officers in the vehicle.

The decision to use lights and sirens lies with the officer in question, who is ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of the public. Part of the training for officers does cause them to consider environmental factors when responding to incidents, including the use of sirens in residential areas during the hours of darkness. However safety is always the number one priority and we support the emergency services in carrying out their duties effectively. As a District we must be focused on the root causes of crime and other emergencies which our public services respond to.

Supplementary Question

It already seems calmer. Job done.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

To be quite honest I did not think you would go for a supplementary on this. I thought you had suffered enough. Obviously we have to back our emergency services. I have not noticed a massive difference. They will use their sirens when they need to use them. I for one will not intervene in that. Thank you Councillor Pennington.

3. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care - Many elderly people and people with a disability in receipt of Direct Payments to employ a carer are having to pay pension contributions for the carer. Could the Portfolio Holder tell us if this is an issue in Bradford and what steps are they taking to support people who find themselves in this position?

Answer

For Direct Payment recipients in the Bradford District who are legally required as part of the Pensions Act 2008 to pay pension contributions to their carer(s), the minimum cost is met through the Direct Payment, as with other employer contributions, and not through the person's own funds.

All Direct Payment recipients were contacted in summer 2015 and provided with information about the Pension regulations and their responsibilities as employers. This letter was accompanied by a fact sheet giving additional information to Direct Payment recipients about support available to them to understand and manage the requirements. This information is also provided to new DP recipients. Prior to this Bradford Council staff worked closely with the Pension Regulator, payroll companies and other local authorities to ensure that the roll out of the regulations and information available to Direct Payment recipients was correct, clear and easy to understand.

The payroll company that provides support to the majority of Bradford's DP recipients has approximately 15 DP clients for whom they are administering the pensions for their paid carers. In addition they are registering approximately 3-4 clients a month as their staging dates for employer enrolment arises.

Supplementary Question

Supplementary is first of all that I am glad to hear that the steps are being taken to support people who now find themselves in a position of employing somebody and having to pay a pension and it is good news because an awful lot of authorities are not doing it. There was a gremlin in the system somewhere because I did actually ask how many people and so I do not expect you to have that one on the top of your head. If you want to just email me afterwards that is fine. Thank you.

Councillor Val Slater

You are right Councillor Sunderland. I do not have the number on the top of my head. It does mention in the report somewhere that three to four clients are being helped. One of the things that we are looking at to try and help because it must be confusing for people on direct payments to suddenly have to face up the fact that they have got responsibilities as employers. One of the things that we would like to look at and we haven't done in Bradford up to now is something called an "individual service funds" which allow very similar to direct payments but they do not come with the client's responsibilities so we are looking at actually progressing that and I will keep you updated on it Councillor Sunderland and I will let you know the exact numbers.

4. Councillor Hawkesworth

How close is the long intended ambition for Bingley music live to be self funding and what has the subsidy been from the council for past 3 years?

Answer

There has been an ambition to deliver Bingley Music Live as a self-funded event, which was always going to be a challenge as any major outdoor event will always have significant costs in building the event site. Over the past three years between 2013 and 2015, the average cost of the event was £102,000 and the closest to breakeven was in 2015 when the event cost £52,000. However, due to inclement weather at the 2016 event, the 'walk up' ticket sales and secondary spend were reduced, which will reflect on the bottom line when the accounts are finalised. We are aware that the event also brings significant benefit to the local economy, however we are also mindful of government cuts and are speaking to the organisers about how they can realise the ambition of it being self-funded.

5. **Councillor Warburton**

Does the portfolio holder welcome the Government's U-turn on parent-governors given the Education Secretary's announcement that the role won't be scrapped after all?

Answer

The decision to retain parent governors is to be warmly welcomed. The proposal in the recent White Paper to remove the need for parent governors was met with understandable disquiet in the educational community. This was led by the National Governors Association, who campaigned hard to maintain the important role of parent governors.

Earlier this year Baroness Howe, the President of the National Governors' Association, pointed out that;

“Elected parents represent a crucial element of effective governance in our schools. The elections themselves ensure that governing boards remain diverse as well as skilled. It is important for the government to recognise that parents have experience and knowledge that other governors and trustees from outside the school simply do not have and so we need to preserve this vital link.”

Locally, we have seen the crucial work that has been undertaken by many members of our local communities as parent governors. They voluntarily give their time to support the children and staff of their schools, monitoring and challenging the work of the school. The original proposal in March's White Paper was clearly misguided. We need to make sure governing boards have a range of people with diverse backgrounds, skills and knowledge.

Parent governors form an important part of the democratic process and many come with considerable skills which can be harnessed for the benefit of Bradford schools. As parents they often have unique insight into the community and the role of the particular school in educating all of the local children. Also it is worth noting that many people currently governing in schools began as elected parent governors and so it is important we continue to value this source of volunteers.

6. **Councillor Bacon**

Seventeen care workers in London have launched legal action against Care Company Sevacare, alleging it paid them less than half the minimum wage. Can the portfolio holder confirm if Sevacare has any contracts in Bradford?

Answer

Sevacare has been operating in Bradford for over ten years. The company did not apply for the framework care contract tendered by the Council, so there is now no contract between the company and the Council. The company may, however, be providing personalised support to clients who have the ability to make their own arrangements as a result of being in receipt of direct payments for that purpose.

We value people who work in this important profession providing care to the vulnerable in our District and would naturally criticise any provider who is found guilty of breaking the law in this way. It is a criminal offence not to pay someone the minimum set down in law.

HM Revenue and Customs officers have the right to carry out checks at any time and ask to see payment records. They can also investigate employers if a worker complains to them.

If an employer hasn't been paying the correct rates, any arrears have to be paid immediately. There is also the possibility of a fine.

Supplementary Question

I would like to thank the Portfolio Holder for her answer to that. What she said about, especially with what's been going on with, Sevacare but given Councillor Whiteley's public support for this company and their practices that was in the press recently does the Portfolio Holder think that she should now be ashamed of her support for that company?

Councillor Val Slater

I do not know exactly what Councillor Whiteley knew about this company and its methods. At the best she did not check and at the worst she knew about it and agreed with them. I know Council officers spent a long time briefing Councillor Whiteley on this. All I would say is it is not for me to answer for Councillor Whiteley but I would just say she needs to check her facts and to be careful of who she listens to and backs. You know what they say, "one occurrence is a mistake, two occurrences whoa".

7. Councillor Ellis

Would the Leader of the Council please enlighten members as to why the Council appears to remain bereft of a Flood Strategy, when her colleague proudly waved around a document purporting to be one, in full Council some time ago now?

Answer

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will go before the Council's Executive Committee meeting on 6th December 2016 after extensive consultation. Regardless of the report, extensive work to alleviate flood risk has already been ongoing.

Since the floods we have been carrying out repairs to highway structures assets (bridges, culverts and retaining walls) which were either damaged or adversely affected by the flood.

Works have either been completed or currently on site at a number of locations:

- **Completed Works include:**
- Denton Bridge, Ilkley – Repairs and refurbishment
- Addingham High Street Footbridge - Scour Damage Repairs
- Bingley Showground – Wall Repairs
- Myrtle Park Footbridge – Bridge repairs

- Woodhouse Road Keighley
- **Works Currently on Site:**
- Bradley Road, Silsden – Wall Reconstruction
- A6034 Keighley Road Silsden – Wall Repairs & Reconstruction
- Bridge Lane, Ilkley – Culvert Replacement
- Esholt Suspension Footbridge – Repair and refurbishment

We have also completed underwater inspections on all our main river bridges. The reports are currently being reviewed with the view to carrying out any minor scour protection and maintenance works identified during Summer 2017.

We are currently putting together a package of work for next year. We will prioritise carrying out the works identified on our river bridges which predominantly carry key routes on our network. Debris Clearance on bridges is also an ongoing exercise.

All these works are funded from the £2.5million grant from the government. This investment in our highway structures asset will contribute towards building resilience to our network. The roads adjacent to strengthened retaining walls in Silsden will be protected. Also replaced culverts will ensure the availability of the roads they support in a flood.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Can I be reassured that there will be no more slippage on this strategy. This should have been finished by March of this year and I find it embarrassing when the Flood Minister names and shames Councils, being one of six Councils, who have not completed it out of 140 some, so please please can I be reassured there will be no more slippage.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Ellis. I know you have put an awful lot of work into this yourself as well in terms of pushing things forward so I appreciate that. Yes we are heading for the December dates and I just have to say that it does not actually stop us doing things of course. We have got the £2½ million from Government and we have been taking a lot of action on flood prevention and alleviation and obviously there are things listed in the answer there. I would just like to make sure that you realise it doesn't mean we have been doing nothing but obviously we all want to get that strategy through when it comes in December.

8. Councillor Nazir

Can the portfolio holder tell us what's happening with the One City Park development at the former Tyrls police station site?

Answer

The One City Park scheme is a key site in Bradford city centre, which is a Strategic Priority Area in the Strategic Economic Plan for Leeds City Region. The site has outline planning permission for circa 95,000 sq ft of office accommodation with the potential for A1 retail, A3 Café and A4 drinking establishment uses at ground floor. The Combined Authority approved in principle funding of £5.2 million to support the scheme. £400,000 out of this £5.2m was allocated for spend in 2015/16 and the funding agreement was agreed with the Combined Authority and the monies drawn down in March 2016. The Council has been working with the Combined Authority to agree the most appropriate

funding method for the remaining allocated funds and whether this should be in the form of a loan or grant. The Council's long stated position is that a grant is more appropriate for this project and it is good news that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority is agreeing to this position and their report to the September Investment Committee proposed that a conditional grant be given to facilitate the development of future offices at One City Park.

A report will be taken to Executive later this year outlining the delivery options for the scheme.

9. Councillor Wainwright

Can the portfolio holder give an update on any planned highways infrastructure projects in Bradford District using West Yorkshire Combined Authority funds?

Answer

The Bradford portfolio of projects within the West Yorkshire+ Transport Fund includes five highway infrastructure projects which are to be delivered by 2025. These are Harrogate Road / New Line Junction Improvement; A650 Hard Ings Road Improvement, Keighley; Tong Street; Bradford to Shipley Corridor Improvements, and South East Bradford Access Route.

Bradford's initial projects - Harrogate Road and Hard Ings Road - are currently being progressed through statutory procedures such as planning permission and land assembly and have recently completed a programme of public consultation with local residents, businesses, elected members and MPs. Both these projects require significant amounts of third-party land and while the Council continues to expend significant effort negotiating the purchase of parcels of land it is also in the process of preparing to advertise a Compulsory Purchase Order and associated Side Roads Order for both schemes. It is currently anticipated that both projects will be complete by 2018/19.

Bradford's medium term programme of projects includes Tong Street and Bradford to Shipley Corridor Improvements. Of these, Tong Street is the most advanced in its development and it is anticipated that approval to proceed to detailed "optioneering" and design will be sought from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority through its Gateway process in early 2017. Development of proposals for Bradford to Shipley Corridor are currently anticipated to be procured externally based on outline options developed by council officers. By using external support to develop the initial option appraisals it is similarly anticipated that approval to proceed to optioneering and design will be obtained mid-2017. Both these projects are currently programmed to be on-site by 2021 with completion by 2025.

Finally, the longer term programme includes development of a South East Bradford Access Route. Funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has been allocated to undertake a high level feasibility assessment of possible routes over the next six months. This high level feasibility work will inform which potential options could have merit to progress through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's approval processes to be delivered by 2025.

10. Councillor Brown

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether she is aware of any increase in car collisions, due to roadside vegetation obscuring road signs?

Answer

Data on road traffic collisions in Bradford, like the rest of West Yorkshire, is collated by the police where they are called to attend collisions. This data in general is limited to those incidents where injuries are reported; data from collisions involving vehicle damage only are not routinely attended by the police.

While the police record a significant amount of data relating to the road lighting and road surface conditions at the time of the incident, they do not record detail which would allow identification of contributory factors such as vegetation obscuring signs. So it is not possible to confirm whether or not there has been an increase in car collisions due to road signs being obscured.

If Members, or their constituents, are aware of any road signs which are obscured by vegetation then details of locations can be passed to the Council's Network Resilience & Management team who can act.

Supplementary Question

The question was prompted by a particular number of accidents that had occurred at the junction of Slaymaker and Cure Hill. It was just particularly at a junction where there seems to be a lot of accidents. People travelling up towards the crematorium at Oakworth. In fact last week there was another serious accident where people were hospitalised. The question that I would like to ask is about the reinstatement of verges being known. It is blocking lots of signs, there are lots of incidents, the roads are becoming dangerous. On this particular junction the white lines needed repairing and also the lighting to the signs need sorting out. If you could consider that. I will say however that Council officers have responded absolutely brilliantly to the repairs that I have requested and they have all been done in a very short timescale. Thank you.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Yes as per the answer it sounds like obviously we are cutting back on grass and grass verges wherever possible. The incidents you mentioned there sounds to be from a problem with a junction possibly rather than just the road signs being obscured. If you can let us know the junction then we will make sure that Highways officers have a look at that junction to see if there are any other incidences because it sounds like you are saying there are a number of incidents that have happened at that junction. Perhaps it needs looking from a wider view rather than just about the grass cutting if that is okay. So if you could let us have those details, we will look into that. Thank you.

11. Councillor Jamil

Can the portfolio holder provide figures on the percentage of Bradford District schools rated good or better by Ofsted. Please include a breakdown of primary and secondary, and also local authority maintained and academy/free schools?

Answer

Ofsted Overall Effectiveness by Phase - % Good/Outstanding					
	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Through	All Schools
Maintained Only	7 Nurseries (100%)	95 out of 125 Primaries (76%)	3 out of 8 Secondaries (37.5%)		75.2%
Academy		17 out of 30	6 out of 17	1 out of 3	50%

		Primary Academies (56.7%)	Secondary Academies (35.3%)	Through Academies (33.3%)	
		2 out of 2 Primary Free Schools (100%)	1 out of 4 Secondary Free Schools (25%)	1 out of 1 Through Free School (100%)	
Free School					57.1%
All Schools	100%	72.6%	34.5%	50%	68.4%

The All Schools figure (68.4%) is the percentage of all Bradford Schools (including Academies and Free Schools) that are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. The All Schools total column is the total by control (e.g. LA Maintained, Academy or Free School) and the All School totals row is the total by each of the phases.

12. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - Could the Portfolio Holder tell us the steps they are taking to remove the thousands of unwanted brown bins from across the District?

Answer

We are currently going through a tendering process for the retrieval of the garden bins which are no longer required. As you can appreciate, the collection of all the unwanted garden bins is a huge task to undertake across the District which is why we are looking for the best and most cost effective option – we are also in discussion with other councils who may want to use the garden bins.

At the moment our focus and limited resources have been directed at the implementation of the Bin Policy and improving recycling. We are focused on the delivery of recycling bins as a priority to ensure residents have the means to increase their recycling across the District.

As soon as we have a timescale for collecting the Garden Bins, which we anticipate will be before the end of the year, we will be issuing communications to residents with the details of the arrangements.

Supplementary Question

For the answer to the question however the supplementary is I am a little confused by it because is it just a tendering process to pick up the bins in which case can I ask when that tendering process will be completed and where you anticipate storing the 50,000 bins once you have picked them up but they are becoming rather a nuisance to people who no longer require them.

Councillor Ferriby

Thank you Councillor Sunderland. The tendering process is to see how they can be reused or recycled and hopefully by the end of the year I will find out regarding the storage. However we have over 34,500 garden waste bins out in the community so it may not be quite 50,000 to bring in, but I will get back to you.

13. Councillor Berry

Can the portfolio holder outline the impact of government proposals to change early years funding on Bradford's highly regarded nursery schools?

Answer

The consultation is still under way for the National Funding formula for Early Years which does indicate a substantial decrease in the funding per pupil for nursery schools; the proposals do make some provision for a minimum of 2 years 'support' for nursery schools, however no details have been provided at this stage. If and when this 'support' is withdrawn then this will have a very significant impact on our nursery schools.

Supplementary Question

Many thanks for the answer and of course I refer earlier to Councillor Jamil's answer that seven nursery schools have 100 per cent rating outstanding. This question confirms that there is this threat to the existence of some of the most effective and well regarded provision in this city begun by Margaret McMillan and with Burnett Fields opening in the Second World War to provide support for families and an outstanding model of earlier intervention so can I ask the Portfolio Holder that in those discussions that take place about the funding we make a vigorous assertion of the value of early intervention and the best start for those children because what we have in the nursery schools in Bradford is some of the best teaching, learning and engagement with parents at the stage when it works best and it saddens me that yet again we are having to defend them from a Conservative Government.

Councillor Imran Khan

Absolutely Ralph. We have got a really good proud track record of working with Early Years in Bradford and it is really sorry to see the Conservative Government absolutely hammering us on our Early Years Services. Yes we can do that.

14. Councillor Whiteley

What percentage of known drug addicts have children living with them in Bradford compared to the national figure?

Answer

% of clients in treatment who live with children under the age of 18 (opiate and non-opiate clients).

2015-16	Bradford	National average
Opiate	43%	28.9%
Non Opiate	20.7%	23.7%

2016-17	Bradford	National average
Opiate	42.6%	28.3%
Non Opiate	20.7%	23.9%

Supplementary Question

Thanks for the answer. I would like to know why the number of children living with known drug addicts is so high in Bradford please. Why do you think that is the case?

Councillor Val Slater

I do not think there is such a simple answer. It is not about whether or not those children and it is quite a wide approach we need to look at. We are not necessarily saying that

because children live with known drug addicts although I do accept that is one part of what we call the “toxic triangle” the others being domestic violence and mental health and of course they are not mutually inclusive. When children apart are subject to part of the toxic triangle they can be more at risk, however we think we have got a different approach in Bradford. There are a couple of things that I would like to mention because it is not always the best approach taking children away from their families. We have been participating in something called the “family drugs and alcohol court” where there is a scheme of intense intervention with families. There are actually seven in the programme at the moment who would otherwise have had their children removed because of dangers but what evidence has shown is that by doing this work the children have been able to remain at home safely. The other thing is whenever we are working with families people need to take a think family and to take a family inclusive approach. So often in the past if for instance Adult Services have been working with drug users maybe they have not fully thought through the approach towards the children and to think through any particular dangers that might be for those children. So the new system that we have got of dealing with children social work in Bradford called Science of Safety which is a model that has been used in 17 countries and quite a number of other councils across Britain and we are just waiting for an innovation bid to be agreed by the Government so that we can progress it. One of the things that we said, so it is being used very much in Children Services at the moment. All the social workers, all our partners, health, school nurses have been trained on this and I am now talking to our new Strategic Director for Health and Wellbeing together with the Director of Children Services as to whether or not this is an approach we need to move on for social workers in Adult Services and that family first approach should be our way of going forward. Thank you.

15. Councillor Jamil

Will the portfolio holder tell us about the alternate weekly bin collections pilot and what are her plans for rolling it out across the District?

Answer

From October this year, the pilot scheme started in the Wyke Ward area – Thursday collections rounds. The first alternate weekly collection was the general waste (green) bin on 6th October, with the recycling waste (grey) bin collected on Thursday the following week, 13th October.

This area has been chosen as it is representative of the district as a whole and is next to Calderdale and Kirklees which already operate the alternate weekly collection system.

To boost recycling rates, householders can now put all their recyclables into one grey bin. This includes glass, plastic bottles, tins, aluminium foil, aerosols, paper and cardboard. Residents in Wyke can now also recycle yoghurt pots, butter tubs, plastic food trays, drinks cartons and TetraPacks.

The District rollout will begin in April 2017. Once we have seen how the Wyke pilot works we will be able to determine the implementation plan for the district.

Introducing the alternate bin collection system will encourage families to think more about recycling, hopefully leading to a dramatic reduction in the amount of waste going to expensive landfill and damaging the environment. We are the last local authority in West Yorkshire to go to alternate weekly collections.

16. Councillor Warburton

Does the Leader welcome the independent auditor's positive report on the Council's financial planning and governance?

Answer

The Leader particularly welcomes the report by the external auditors, which said the local authority had used effectively resources and staff to deliver priorities and maintain statutory functions. The report gave a high rating for delivering savings, reliable financial and performance information and maintaining statutory functions, and compared Bradford favourably with other councils. This sound financial management is especially crucial given that the services we provide for residents continue to be subject to severe government funding cuts.

17. Councillor Pennington

In light of HS3 potentially passing through the Bradford District, much to the benefit of the local economy and job prospects for local residents, would the Leader of the Council consider it appropriate to halt any further preliminary works relating to the proposed City Centre Swimming Pool, as its location is that most likely to be approved for an electrified high speed rail connection?

Answer

I'm glad to see Cllr Pennington is as keen to achieve an HS3 stop in Bradford as we are and will go to any lengths! The Council in conjunction with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has recently commissioned consultants to look at the technical feasibility of providing an HS3 station in Bradford. This work will look at where an HS3 station could go in the city centre and how best to integrate it with the existing rail network and stations. The current understanding is that HS3 will not be delivered until after HS2 has been completed sometime in the 2030s, although the Council would like this to be a lot sooner. Given the HS3 build timescales and the fact that it is not guaranteed that Bradford will have a station on the HS3 rail network, it would not be appropriate to second guess where the station might go. Indeed what we need to be focused on at the present time is still making the case for a Bradford stop on HS3. The case is far from made conclusively and everyone across the chamber needs to work on lobbying to get Bradford off the branch line. I have recently invited Transport Minister Andrew Jones MP to visit the district, a former Bradford Grammar School pupil and would welcome the opposition doing the same.

Supplementary Question

Tom Riordan who is the Chief Executive of Leeds described Bradford unbelievably as a "sweet spot" ideal for an HS3 station. Leader in your answer you quote 2030 and then you add "but I would like it sooner". I believe we will get HS3 before they actually develop HS2 and I think it will happen much sooner than you think. So I would like to ask you again not to build anything on land nearest to the city centre which will be best suited to a rail connection. As an aside I am glad to see you appreciate the Transport Minister's education.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I would love to share your confidence in that West Yorkshire Leaders, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and we are absolutely sold on the idea that Leeds supporting us to get HS3 through and a stop in Bradford. That is why I have invited Andrew Jones because I think there is still a case to be made with Government and I would welcome

your support in getting him here quite frankly. So if you could write to him in getting him here and get him as soon as possible to really make that case. I think we have got to keep lobbying, we have to keep telling making the case for Bradford. We are the largest city on the branch line, it is unacceptable and it does inhibit our growth. Yes it is important but we need to work together to get that. We cannot count our chickens before they hatch, we have to keep working at this. Thank you.

18. Councillor Malcolm Slater

In light of the flooding last winter, what checks do we do on gullies in areas of high flood risk?

Answer

We monitor gullies in areas of high risk (e.g. the areas that flooded around Boxing Day last year) and they are checked quarterly. If they are blocked or require cleaning then our maintenance team action this.

19. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - Kirklees Council has been criticised for requiring householders to register their vehicles online before they can take their rubbish to the tip. Could the Portfolio Holder advise us if they are planning to do the same in Bradford?

Answer

Bradford operates a permit scheme for residents to use our eight Household Waste Recycling Centres. This does not require residents to register their vehicles online in order to obtain a permit and there are no plans to introduce such a requirement.

20. Councillor Ellis

Would the Leader of the Council confirm that the proposed methods for the collection of recyclable waste conforms with the government's desire to reduce the cross contamination of recyclables, which currently results in much of it being left unfit for recycling, thus undermining the efforts of local residents and causing huge amounts of recyclables being disposed of via environmentally unfriendly methods?

Answer

Bradford has for several years successfully collected co-mingled recyclates (e.g. glass, cans and plastic bottles) without any issues of cross-contamination. These have and are placed into recycling markets for which we have received a substantial income (£1.5m in the 2016-17 budget).

Issues of contamination arise from non-recyclates being placed in the recycling bin. A number of steps have and are being taken to ensure our recyclate quality continues to remain high and is able to readily meet challenging market conditions. In this way we will ensure our collected recyclates continue to be successfully recycled.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your answer. What concerns me is perhaps the trial that's going on in Wyke where we are only going to have one bin. Then of course that is intended to be rolled out across the district. It appears to me that we are flying against the ministerial advice given to all local authorities and I am not going to read the whole thing out but it

does particularly mention that glass shards in paper is very problematic and in actual fact very often makes it unusable as a recycle. At the end it does actually “any local authority considering new collection or disposable plan should take care to ensure they are placed themselves in a position to fulfil their legal duties from 2015. This is particularly important for local authorities who may be considering moving away from separate collections” and it goes on “A local authority should consult their own lawyers as necessary and should keep a clear and audit trail given the potential for a legal challenge.”

Councillor Hinchcliffe

I have not read the document you are talking about there so if you could let us have that we would be happy to provide a more fulsome reply. We do have a small materials reclamation facility in Bowling Back Lane that actually deals with a lot of this stuff and I have to emphasise this is not the first step of any local authority in the country of course. This is something we are the last ones in West Yorkshire, and in fact I think Yorkshire, to go to alternate weekly bin collections so this has been done before and we have to learn from others and actually make sure that we deliver a good service to residents at a reduced cost in the future so happy to take some of those issues off line and we will respond to you in detail but I have to emphasise this has been done before successfully and we can do it here in Bradford successfully as well. Thank you.

21. Councillor Whiteley

How many requests were made to this Council for help with adult social care in the last two years? Please provide the Numbers by ward and indicate how many of these applications resulted in help paid for by the council how many led to self funded care?

Answer

In the last two years approximately 19,800 people have contacted Adult and Community Services of which 9,700 (49%) were new individuals requesting help and who subsequently progressed to referral for assessment and support and eligibility for longer term care.

Of the individuals referred to assessment and support approximately 2,500 (26%) subsequently went on to receive long term adult social care support paid for by Bradford Council, either in their own home or in a residential or nursing care setting, indicating the remainder were either not eligible, provision was made via alternative or self-funding, they declined support or were provided with information and advice / signposted to other organisations. The outcome of the assessment for some individuals may also not yet have been determined and processed/recorded on our systems. See table 1 below for a breakdown by Ward.

Our implementation of Integrated Digital Care Records in August 2016 will provide us with a more dynamic care system which is expected to improve our recording of the Adult Social Care customer journey from initial contact through assessment and support to provision of services. We are currently evaluating the reporting options from our new systems which should provide quality information on client payment options from 2016-17 onwards. We would offer advice to all people regardless of whether they self-fund or not.

WARD	No. of new people referred to Assessment and Support	Of which went on to receive long term care and support paid for BMDC	%
BAILDON	227	60	26%
BINGLEY	241	70	29%
BINGLEY RURAL	271	74	27%
BOLTON AND UNDERCLIFFE	267	76	28%
BOWLING AND BARKEREND	369	89	24%
BRADFORD MOOR	240	39	16%
CITY	299	60	20%
CLAYTON AND FAIRWEATHER GREEN	343	86	25%
CRAVEN	467	166	36%
ECCLESHILL	272	45	17%
GREAT HORTON	267	58	22%
HEATON	276	69	25%
IDLE AND THACKLEY	317	91	29%
ILKLEY	245	72	29%
KEIGHLEY CENTRAL	288	67	23%
KEIGHLEY EAST	206	59	29%
KEIGHLEY WEST	217	53	24%
LITTLE HORTON	253	31	12%
MANNINGHAM	333	61	18%
Out of Area	81	36	44%
QUEENSBURY	227	62	27%
ROYDS	320	74	23%
SHIPLEY	230	63	27%
THORNTON & ALLERTON	235	42	18%
TOLLER	463	116	25%
TONG	360	97	27%
WHARFEDALE	132	29	22%
WIBSEY	270	56	21%
WINDHILL & WROSE	253	67	26%
WORTH VALLEY	125	32	26%
WYKE	224	38	17%

Source: BMDC AIS and Commcare Systems (now legacy following implementation of Integrated Digital Care Records from Aug 2016)

22. Councillor Fear

To ask the Leader of Council - Following the Boxing Day floods, how much money was the Council given to allocate to domestic properties under the flood resilience grant? How much of this was allocated?

Answer

The Government has not set a specific budget but has said that it will fund all resilience grants made in accordance with the Property Level Resilience Scheme guidance.

To date £1.5m has been paid or committed for domestic properties. Applications for resilience grants are still being received so this sum will increase.

Supplementary Question

I am pleased to get the number of applications that have been received to date.

23. Councillor Hawkesworth

What is the budget for events in centre of the city for 2016-2017?

Answer

The base budget for City Centre Events is currently £349,800, of which £72,000 is for salaries. The remaining budget is for the delivery of events, which include:

- Bradford Festival
- Autumn Events
- Christmas Lights Switch On
- Armed Forces Day
- Fun & Film Wednesdays

In addition £140,000 has been carried over from the cancellation of the Christmas lights switch-on last year due to adverse weather conditions.

As well as the major events managed by the Council, there are a wide range of activities and events taking place in City Park that are booked and facilitated by the Events Team. This year, these have included Bradford Literature Festival, Family Film Festival, Love Bradford Event, Epilepsy Action 10k, Air Training Corps parade, Scouts Parade (St. George's Day), World Rivers day, Born in Bradford Event, Yorkshire Sports. There have also been an additional 35 bookings for promotional/awareness days. One-off development monies of £250,000 have supported the kick-start of new events including those taking place under the "Season of Light" which incorporates the Wild Woods events on Darley Street and the City Centre Lantern Parade. There is a commitment to ensure that the benefits of events are spread across the City Centre, with a particular focus on the Top of Town. Although as the development funding is one-off there is no guarantee that this will be available again next year.

24. Councillor Ali

Could the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Culture provide details of the revenue generated by the introduction of bulky waste collection fees and also fines for fly tipping and the increased cost of removing fly tipping, during the same period, broken down monthly, since the introduction of the charges?

Answer

Charges for bulky waste collections were introduced in September 2013. The revenue generated is as follows:

Year	Total £
2016-17 (half year to date)	76,602
2015-16	135,581
2014-15	100,178
2013-14 (half year)	45,760

Since September 2013 the Council has prosecuted for flytipping offences as follows:

Year	Month	Fine £
From Sept 2013		0
2014	June	200
	August	200
2015	March	400

2016	February	4,238
	May	330
	May	5,000
	August	350
	September	200
Total		10,918

In addition 5 fixed penalty notices for flytipping have been issued in October 2016. Three have been paid at £300 each. The remaining two are currently unpaid.

It must be noted that all fines raised by prosecutions do not remain with the Council, but are paid to the Government's Ministry of Justice. The Council can however recover costs incurred in taking legal action. Fines from payment of flytipping fixed penalty notices are retained by the Council

Although the number of reports for flytipping have increased year on year since the introduction of charges for bulky waste the actual tonnage of flytipped waste collected by street cleansing has remained relatively static. There has been no increase in waste collection and disposal costs and as such there has been no increase in the cost of removal of flytipping.

25. Councillor Dale Smith

Can the Leader of Council tell us how, when and at what cost the steps leading to Margaret Macmillan Towers will be made safer for disabled people?

Answer

There is level access for wheelchair users to both sides of the main entrance of MMT and also to the rear; the steps are constructed with non-slip treads and no additional works are presently planned.

Supplementary Question

Can I firstly declare an interest as co-chair of the Strategic Disability Partnership and can I just point out that the definition of disabled people is far wider than those who use wheelchairs and certainly your access to Margaret McMillan Towers for wheelchairs as you described it is accurate but I do invite you and I am surprised at the answer to some extent because if you go to the top of the steps and look down you will see how poorly those steps are for people with impairment or no sight at all or even just the elderly like myself, when you look down you get dizzy and they are not in my view DDA compliant and I would just invite you to look at that and give me an email in due course. Thank you.

26. Councillor Poulsen

Can the Portfolio Holder update me on the current length of time to action gully cleaning requests and how many are currently awaiting action per ward?

Answer

We receive gully cleaning requests across the district each day. This can increase during periods of heavy rain. We advise customers that we aim to attend and check/clean within 21 days.

We do not record them by ward at the moment but I can advise that we currently have the following numbers of requests waiting to be actioned (these are within the 21 day timescale)

- Bradford West 25 requests
- Bradford East 19 requests
- Bradford South 16 requests
- Keighley 30 requests
- Shipley 21 requests

Supplementary Question

I was quite reassured reading the answer that the request here for each of the parts of the district were all within the 21 day timescale but slightly confused because I have had residents this week complaining that the gullies in Oldfield, some of them are still waiting to be cleared and they were requested back in July which is obviously more than 21 days even with my maths so maybe you could look into that for me please?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

Yes happy if you want to send me the details and I will ask officers to look at those cases and let you know what the answer is.

27. Councillor Fear

To ask the Leader of Council - Following the Boxing Day floods, how much money was the Council given to allocate to commercial properties under the flood resilience grant? How much of this was allocated?

Answer

The Government has not set a specific budget but has said that it will fund all resilience grants made in accordance with the Property Level Resilience Scheme guidance.

To date, £81,000 has been paid or committed for commercial properties.

Supplementary Question

I just want to ask given that the number that we paid out is such a small factor compared to the amount we paid for domestic properties how was this scheme promoted to businesses across the district after the floods. Thank you.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

It was done quite widespread in quite a short space of time and actually still continues here today so if businesses still want to apply they can do. We have also done features in the Telegraph & Argus and used every media we can to promote that but obviously business groups as well I think we have spoken to. So it is just using as we said in that written question actually that written answer to the question it is using all the methods we have available but certainly if you know a few of the businesses who are unaware of the scheme do let us know and we will make sure we talk to them.

28. Councillor Pennington

In light of the recent interruption in the City Hall refurbishment works, could the Leader of the Council confirm whether the problem resulted in any additional cost to the Council?

Answer

No additional costs were incurred.

29. Councillor Whiteley

Now that the Inspector has agreed that a large number of houses can be built between Addingham and Menston, what plans does this Council have to ring fence Council owned land at Ben Rhydding for educational purposes as there is no other suitable land on which to build a new secondary school on when one is needed?

Answer

The Local Plan is now on hold due to the intervention by Philip Davies MP, so the council cannot now proceed with any plan for infrastructure at the present time.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Given that this has got to be put on hold and I would ask you to put it on the back burner please and allow me to keep asking this question over and over again for my residents until we get a suitable answer. Thank you.

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I think this is part of a problem with the whole core strategy really that Members are confused particularly on the opposite benches about what this actually does. If having a core strategy on the back burner will not bring forward allocations, it will not bring forward any infrastructure plans, it will not bring forward the sites. We needed the core strategy in place to continue that process and have up to date policies so if you are concerned about what might happen if development goes in your community, well, all not having a core strategy does is mean we do not have the up to date policies so that developers can still, as Councillor Hawkesworth said it is an issue about five year land supply, that still is going to be an issue for you but we just do not have the policies to deal with appropriate development so it is not going to be for developers, nothing is put on a back burner, they can still put the applications in, we just will not have the up to date policies thanks to the actions of your party locally to deal with those developments so your communities are now more exposed to bad development than it was last week.

30. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Culture - The Education Secretary has announced six areas, identified as the most challenged when it comes to social mobility, will have access to funding to address the biggest challenges they face. Can the Portfolio Holder tell us what steps he took to have Bradford included on the list of Opportunity Areas?

Answer

We are disappointed not to be included in the first tranche of opportunity areas, but just to be clear, these were decisions taken by central government without any consultation with Local Authorities. There was no application process or even an opportunity for 'Expressions of Interest'. The first we heard about the Opportunities Fund was just before the 'winning' Authorities were named. It appears the social mobility factors means Bradford comes out as better off than those areas chosen.

The Leader wrote to Justine Greening MP in the first week of her appointment as Secretary of State for Education to tell her about Bradford and invite her to the District.

She has declined the invitation. We have also engaged the LGA in brokering conversations between the Council and the DfE. We have made further representations to have Bradford included in the next tranche.

31. Councillor Poulsen

Can the Portfolio Holder advise colleagues as to what work has been carried out by the Council to make repairs at the Mill Hey bridge in Haworth following the Boxing Day?

Answer

Following the Boxing Day Floods engineers inspected various highway structures throughout the district. Measures were put in place to ensure public safety and the availability of the network where necessary.

With particular reference to Mill Hey Bridge, the temporary barriers installed on the bridge ensure the bridge is safe for use.

Engineers have carried out options appraisal and finalised the scheme for the repairs. The repairs have been scheduled for summer 2017 after the spawning season. We are in the process of applying for the necessary permits to work on the watercourse and highway.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. I am slightly concerned because I was advised by officers that the work on the Mill Hey bridge was scheduled to start in August this year. Have not been advised that it is now going to be next summer by anybody. You also mention the finalised scheme has been drawn up but there has been no discussion with ward members at all about what this scheme is and any details of it which is quite a concern really. Could you look into that for me?

Councillor Ross-Shaw

I understood what you were getting at. No I completely understand if you have not been informed. You want to be informed and I have asked officers previously when there is works make sure Members are informed at the appropriate stage. It might be that it is just not at the advanced stage where officers would say right we will let Members know now but certainly for Mill Hey I will ask officers to send you a background or if the date has slipped why it has slipped. It is quite a complicated project. A lot of them are just due to the business of the roads or as it mentions even spawning seasons we have to take into account but I will get officers to provide you with a fuller explanation.

32. Councillor Davies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services agree with me, that before publicly declaring 19 school sixth forms to be "unviable" based simply on the fact they have fewer than 250 pupils, wouldn't it have been wiser and more helpful to look at the reasons why pupils choose to go to these sixth forms, the results achieved and the schools' plans for the future?

Answer

The scrutiny report referred to does not declare that the schools referenced have "unviable" sixth forms. When, in section 3, referring to the Appendix containing the list of schools referred to, the report explicitly states, "It should not be assumed that all of these are financially inefficient" and the preceding paragraph of the report also discusses how a

small sixth form could be financially viable. The list was included at the request of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, and to be clear, the decision about how sixth form provision is delivered ultimately rests with the schools themselves; we cannot instruct them what to do.

In relation to the general point about financial viability, the reference to 250 being a break-even point is based on research undertaken nationally by the Association of School and College Leaders on the assumption that a sixth form is offering 20 courses. This research was based on the previous year's data. If you update the methodology with current figures it actually now comes out at 265 students.

Funding for post-16 provision, as highlighted in the scrutiny report, has changed significantly since the introduction of the new formula in 2008. Prior to this, in most school settings, sixth form provision was funded to a much higher rate per student. As many of the protections from the introduction of the new formula have now been phased out, smaller sixth forms that continue to offer as broad a range of subjects as before are in the vast majority of cases being subsidised by pre-16 budgets. We are not specifically saying that this shouldn't happen but it is right and proper to highlight this and for partners to be clear this is the case when making decisions around their future strategy.

It is correct to identify that when considering the future of post-16 arrangements in the District there are a number of factors that need to be considered. The range of partners we have worked with in the course of the review and the different considerations that have informed our thinking are highlighted in the scrutiny report but specifically in Appendices 1 and 2. These documents were produced with the oversight of partners on a Steering Group that followed a workshop held in December as part of an externally commissioned review. Every school in the District was invited to participate in that workshop. As is highlighted in the Appendices the 'Case for Change' that is set out was accepted by all the partners we worked with and that were consulted with and this includes outcomes, value added, curriculum, guidance and choices and capacity as well as finance.

We also need to be clear that any solutions we propose are suitable for the future of national policy as we understand it. For example one of the key strengths of our schools has been in vocational outcomes and value added post-16 but in the White Paper "Post-16 Skills Plan" it is proposed that schools will not be able to deliver this type of provision. This will clearly impact outcomes for schools, but also the curriculum offer and ultimately the finance and viability of the sixth form.

The Review has therefore considered this broader range of factors in determining a plan to move provision forward and drive up outcomes. We have seen improvements in some settings for academic provision, but Ofsted were critical of this when they inspected Local Authority arrangements in 2015, and the fact is that the post-16 system as a whole does not deliver the outcomes our young people deserve. NEET is lower than it has ever been but 19-24 unemployment has not seen the same level of reduction. The rate of young people attaining Level 3 (A level or equivalent) has stalled and actually decreased slightly last year whilst the national rate has continued to increase.

The Council is clear it does not have the remit to direct individual institutions as to the future of its provision but these are indicators that the system is not delivering what any of us would want and we need to work with partners to change this as the Review documents and the scrutiny report indicate. We are pleased therefore to note the success of two recent applications for larger post-16 free schools which we believe will be the first

steps of the strategic transformation of post-16 provision in the District driving up outcomes for our young people.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for the answer. Would you agree that a sixth form with say 200 pupils who leave with consistently high results is preferable to one with say 300 pupils with a high drop out rate and poor results?

Councillor Imran Khan

We are in a process where we are reviewing our sixth form provision at the moment. What I want to see and I think what all of us want to see is good quality education provided for all our children. I do not think numbers is the issue here. It is about good quality education.

33. Councillor Naylor

Could the leader provide a progress report on the Odeon together with any future deadlines that need to be met?

Answer

Bradford Live are working up their detailed business case and are awaiting feedback from their preferred operator so that they can finalise their revised funding model and present this to the Assistant Director of Estates and Property for the Council to consider.

Supplementary Question

Are there any actual deadlines to be met in terms of the answer which I am grateful for? It says that something is to be presented to the Assistant Director but it does not say what the timelines are round it. I would be grateful if you could advise me as to when certain deadlines have to be met in terms of funding for this and when it ceases to be something that is actively seeking funds.

Councillor Hinchcliffe

Thank you Councillor Naylor. We are working closely with Bradford Live who I have to say have done a fantastic job at getting us to this stage. Therefore we are fully aware of their process and where they are at that and with the conversations they are having. I am not about to come down on them if they have knocked a day or two here or there. We need to make sure that those negotiations reach their conclusion so I cannot give you a timeline at the moment but as I say we are on top of the situation working with Bradford Live to make sure we get the best outcome possible and as soon as we have news of course we will announce it wherever. Thank you.

34. Councillor Whiteley

Given that recent reports in the Telegraph and Argus state that ambulance response times are inadequate in the district and particularly in rural areas can the portfolio holder confirm what training is given to those areas provided with defibrillators and are how often have these been used compared with the number of reported emergencies?

Answer

Health colleagues in the CCG have provided the following response:

Defibrillators are provided in areas where lots of people congregate and in rural areas, they are provided in partnership with Yorkshire Ambulance Service and with community organisations who have requested them.

The Yorkshire Ambulance Service offers the opportunity for training in the use of the defibrillator to local areas but it is up to local discretion whether this is taken up or not. However, when a person phones 999 and a defibrillator may be appropriate, the call handler locates the nearest machine, provides a code to unlock the box and stays on the phone providing verbal instructions on how to use it.

The defibrillators have instructions and they cannot be used inappropriately as the machine picks up the heart rhythm and will only discharge the current if the heart rhythm requires it.

The number of times defibrillators are used is recorded and the information is kept by the West Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

35. **Councillor Cooke**

Cllr Imran Khan sensationally claimed in the T&A in August that *“the cost of schools becoming academies has the potential to bankrupt Bradford Council”* – could he advise us how much money the Council has spent so far on writing off deficits associated with sponsored academy conversions?

Answer

The Council has not incurred cost to date of writing off the value of deficit balances held by sponsored academies under the Government’s current conversion system, as there have been no sponsored conversions with deficits.

There are three maintained schools that are expected to convert as sponsored academies before the end of this financial year that are currently forecasting to hold deficit balances.

If like me, Cllr Cooke attended the Schools Forum meetings however he would be equally concerned at some of the potential figures being discussed for sponsored academy conversions. *“Potential to bankrupt”* may have been too inflammatory a description, but I was emphasising the point that this Tory Government has decimated Local Authorities up and down the country with their short-sighted approach, especially to Education. Cutting the budget from £600m to £300m in a few short years was difficult to deal with, but now asking the Council to pick up the costs of conversion was obviously going to compound the problem. Cllr Cooke will be pleased to know that we take our responsibilities seriously and are prudently managing the Council’s finances. However, none of us should ignore the fact that worst case scenario, the Council could be faced with an additional £25m of deficit costs, over £5m worth of conversion costs and stripped of millions of pounds worth of assets.

Supplementary Question

Can I thank the Portfolio Holder for coming clean on the fiction that he perpetrated in order to get a front page of the T&A by suggesting that there is a potential that the Council might be bankrupted by funding the deficits of academies. It is clearly untrue and it is good to see that clarified. It is also good to see that he, along with the rest of his party, is still incapable of understanding the basics of Council finances. But can he confirm to us that actually there is no existential threat to the Council from the process of

schools converting to academies at all and can he confirm that the Council will continue to work with schools that are in that process in order to get the best outcome for the school and for the pupils of the schools?

Councillor Imran Khan

Of course we are going to work with schools. That is what we are trying to do but we are not getting the support we need from you guys. I was not trying to get on the front page of the T&A. The comments I made were actually to be fair was not to the T&A, it was in a Scrutiny Committee meeting where, and I have accepted I was merely trying to highlight the point that it places the Council in a very difficult financial situation given the cuts that your party Councillor Cooke have imposed on Councils like Bradford where we have gone from £600m and I will talk about that more in my speech but from £600m to £300m but you know what, thank God we have got the Labour Party in control of the Council because we are managing this very difficult situation and trying to do the best for the kids of this district.

36. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care - Can the Portfolio Holder advise us, for each of the last five years, what are the minimum, maximum and average waiting times that a young person has to wait to access the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service?

Answer

For CAMHS clients where the waiting time is recorded, times are as follows:

	0-5 weeks	6-10 weeks	>10 weeks
2011/12	37	3	0
2012/13	75	9	0
2013/14	84	34	0
2014/15	69	22	0
2015/16	103	24	0

The maximum waiting time has been less than 10 weeks for all these clients. We do not collect information on average waiting times.

At present the First Response Service provides access to emergency care for people of all ages, including children and young people, within 24 hours. Access to emergency care is, therefore, very rapid.

Supplementary Question

Portfolio Holder given that research has shown that we expect around four young people in every secondary class to have an undiagnosed mental ill health problem. Given that we have won awards for our emergency access service and given in the answer to this question that we have got more people waiting longer and in her answer to Councillor Dunbar that it was only just a matter of money, does she think it is time that we produced a report that said how much money does mental health services for young people require in this city and then at least we can make some decisions about shifting it from pet projects into projects that really matter?

Councillor Val Slater

Thank you. There is the draft mental health strategy will be going to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the end of November and that includes details of the funding that is actually allocated across all partners towards mental health. I share your concerns Councillor Sunderland about CAMHS and about the services that are available to young people and about the length of time that they have to wait and this is an issue that comes up certainly on the Safeguarding Board when we talk about things like therapeutic support. Part of the issue is that the funding for CAMHS is complicated. The CCGs and ourselves do some levels but the more specialist levels like level 4 is actually allocated by NHS England and unfortunately we do not have that influence with them. As my colleague Councillor Greenwood will say when we recently had Health Scrutiny and we talked about dentistry also controlled by NHS England and getting them to provide a proper dental service in Bradford, we were just getting no where.

37. Councillor Whiteley

Would the Leader of the Council agree that Council School Transport Policies should be transparent and devised and implemented in a manner which does not discriminate against children from any part of the Bradford District and allows parents to make school places choices, which are appropriately informed regarding the Council's school transport policies?

Answers

The Council writes its school and college transport policies in accordance with statute laid down in the Education Act 1996 and as amended by other Acts including the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Education and Skills Act 2008, The Equalities Act 2010 and Children and Families Act 2014. The Government periodically issues statutory guidance to which the Council must also have regard.

Parents have the right to make a preference for any school but travel assistance is only provided to the nearest available suitable school and this school can be outside of the authority boundary. The provision of transport assistance does not take account of school priority areas or the attendance of feeder schools.

All applications are assessed individually against the Council's policies and those that are eligible against the criteria are provided with suitable assistance. Those families who think they have been declined wrongly have the right of the review of the decision and further to this can appeal to the Council's Transport Appeals Panel heard by three councillors.

38. Councillor Brown

Does the relevant department have a maintenance schedule for clearing overgrown snickets?

Answer

The Council currently has no formal operational maintenance schedule for the clearance of urban rights of way or "snickets". Historical schedules do exist for previous work on these routes but budget constraints in both the Highways Maintenance and Parks and Landscapes Teams, who undertook this work previously, mean that this work is not currently being carried out by them.

The issue of snicket maintenance is currently being looked at by the appropriate Assistant Directors together with officers from the relevant departments and a meeting has recently taken place to look at options for the future. This work is at a very early stage and no

discussions have taken place on potential courses of action. However a principal issue which needs resolution is clarifying which routes the Council has responsibility for, as many “snickets” are not recorded for use by the public and serve only the residents who live alongside them and who are responsible for their maintenance.

Although there are no formal arrangements for urban snicket maintenance there is a schedule for the rural rights of way network which includes public routes for which the Council has a responsibility. This rural maintenance, carried out by the Countryside and Rights of Way Team, includes clearance of vegetation on an annual basis, drainage, signing and surface repair as required.

39. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sport & Sustainability - Could the Portfolio Holder tell us the total amount of domestic waste being collected from households for each of the last 5 years?

Answer

The total amounts of domestic waste collected from households over the last five years is as follows:

Year	Total	Residual	Recyclates
2015-16	161,373	132,497	28,876
2014-15	156,844	130,072	26,772
2013-14	153,153	130,078	23,075
2012-13	151,961	129,457	22,504
2011-12	153,563	130,989	22,574