

Public Participation – Cabinet 4 October 2022

Question 1 – Jamie Dunn

Statement

The possibility of injuries in school is always present, so making sure everyone based there are equipped to handle different types of injuries is important. Last year I contacted Cllr Parry and Theresa Leavy respectively asking for support within the DC community of schools. I introduced Zach Griffiths from the British Red Cross South division. Within six months, a large uptake of bookings have been placed with the BRC and delivered across a number of Dorset venues. Further discussions are ongoing on introducing first aid classes within the school day. Let's take the opportunity to lead on such an issue.

Question - First Aid in Dorset school curriculums

Whilst support for the importance of adding first aid to our school curriculums have been cascaded in such as the likes of my social media posts or tweets, no evidential support has been given to our local schools since. Only Lytchett Minster school have been a clear supporter of this, incorporating within their school day with the BRC.

Can I ask for a detailed response as to why this is and indeed what the educational lead of Dorset Council is going to do in liaising with the new education secretary on bringing First aid onto our Dorset school curriculums?

Question 2 – Mike Newland

RE Item 8 on the agenda

In response to a question, I recently asked at People and Health Overview Committee about the fairness and affordability of Blocked Book Beds at Residential Care Homes I was informed that '*A number of these homes were then replaced by Care South in return for long-term block contracts with the Council that formed an income stream upon which they could raise the funds needed to invest in the building programme*'.

However, according to Care South accounts, only one of the relevant homes (Maiden Castle) is owned and was built by Care South (on land leased to it by the Council). The other two homes (Buxton House and Fairlawn) are leased to Care South by Aster Housing Association (Buxton was subleased by DCC to Care South). The 2005 loan taken by Care South to build Maiden Castle appears relatively small compared to the amount of income from these contracts taking into account the very large difference between, for example, their weekly dementia bed rate of >£1200 to that of typical and FCoC fees highlighted in the report to be presented to Cabinet today, ~£700-850; And there are 130-140 total block booked beds, paid for (even if empty) for up to another 2 decades; Also, the assessed FCoC fee rate already includes a significant amount to account for return on capital.

Given that previous attempts by Adult Services to renegotiate the contracts were unsuccessful, I have the following questions:

1. Please can a full and more complete explanation be given as to why the blocked booked bed rates are so high and for so long?
2. Given the advertised '*huge hole*' in adult services budgets and the very large costs of these contracts, what new progress has there been to reduce the contracted block booked bed rate to a more affordable level for Dorset ratepayers and to a fairer level compared to that given to other providers?