

**Questions to Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee 24 June 2020 (Deadline 7pm Monday 22 June 2020)**

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
6	David Tooley	<p><b>Question:</b> In relation to item 6 on the agenda could the public health team say where the "high risk places, locations and communities" are in Milton Keynes, as outlined in section 5 of Appendix A?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> We are looking to ensure preventive and reactive processes are agreed to minimise the risk of outbreaks in those places where they are more likely or people are at higher risk of adverse outcomes. Examples of these include locations and workplaces where social distancing is difficult, communities where people's work exposes them to greater risk, and communities where overcrowded or multi-generational households may make it more difficult for people with symptoms to isolate from others. We are taking advice from Public Health England and also working with local partners to identify where our focus in MK needs to be.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b> Does the council believe that it is in the public interest to be more specific about actual locations and communities so that the public can be alerted now to take necessary action to mitigate risks?</p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	Anne Dudley	<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>I am a tutor who has taught adults with learning disabilities for many years. I appreciate how much the lives of these learners are enriched when they are provided with opportunities which enable them to become enthusiastic and sociable learners within a welcoming, encouraging and professional environment.</p> <p>If such day services are not provided for adults with learning disabilities, how will you ensure that these learners will have access to these valuable opportunities and avoid social isolation and a loss of inspiration?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The Council recognises that the current loss of day opportunities to people with a learning disability is being felt by many people. These impacts can include boredom, isolation and depression. Council officers are in regular contact with people to check that they are okay and if they need additional support. Most providers are also in contact with people and providing activities that can be done at home e.g. art and craft materials and online activities. Some people are being supported inside and outside of their home e.g. going for a walk, where this is been identified as a priority. We are acutely aware of the additional pressure on families and the increase in social isolation for people with a learning disability, but we must not bring people together in groups if this can be avoided.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	C. A Hibberd	<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>As funding for Day Service providers has not been agreed by MK Council beyond 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and, in view of any decision being made at this meeting to cease funding for Day Services for vulnerable, mentally and physically disabled young people beyond this date :-</p> <p><i>what provision will be made for their care and support from 1 July 2020 onwards, as they will be seriously affected by a decision to cease funding and why have parents and carers not yet been informed of this possibility, which may occur in only 6 days' time?</i></p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>MKC have advised providers that blanket payments for services not being provided need to be reviewed and other source of government funding utilised. We will continue to work with providers to consider any financial support required. Milton Keynes needs all of its day service provision which offers a selection of engaging and enjoyable activities for disabled people. However, providers are not able to provide the level of service that they could before Covid-19, therefore the council is paying for a service its citizens are not receiving. Milton Keynes' council officers has meeting with day service providers and continue to do so. Council officers have just written to all people with a learning disability and their carers regarding day services. Social care staff have been in regular contact with families to monitor any concerns and offer help. The Council has not been in a position and is still not in a position to provide a clear plan regarding how all people that were accessing day services prior to Covid-19 will be able to in the future.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	Tasha Mcsporrان	<p><b>Question:</b> Why is the reopening of day services so uncertain but there is no uncertainty of reopening of disability schools?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> MKC is following the advice set out by Central Government regarding opening of services. In light of the current circumstances, guidelines and alert levels, we are not anticipating that services will be able to safely re-open on the basis that they were prior to Covid 19. The country is currently at threat level 3 with continued community spread of Coronavirus. The opening of schools has been directed by specific Government guidance, there is no corresponding guidance for the opening of day centres. Schools are only able to open nursery, reception and years 1 and 6 and only on a first come basis. The council is working with providers to open day services paying particular attention to how this can be done safely. The complexities regarding day services are different to children attending school. Current research suggests that children are at a lower risk of infection from Covid 19 than adults. Children attend one school; however, many people with a learning disability attend a variety of services over a week, making the development of support bubbles used in schools more difficult to arrange. Officers will continue to work with providers, people with learning disabilities and their carers to develop safe options as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	Teresa Harvey	<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>Do the council think it's fulfilled its duty of care during this pandemic? what have they been doing for the past 13 weeks to prepare their vital day centres to re-open their services to the vulnerable young people whom they have a responsibility for? As from the 4th of July my young person could if he was able to, access virtually any activity within the borough i.e. bowling, Cinema, shopping, pubs, restaurants, barbers, but he can't access his Day Centre? his safe place? the council have refused to engage with parent/carers as to what the future plans are and insist they are following government guidelines? People with learning disabilities are being treated unfairly and the council are not fulfilling their duties! Parent/carers are being left to just get on with it. Can the council please explain itself!</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The Council understands that it is extremely difficult for carers and people who use services that are currently closed. Closing the services was not undertaken lightly but in line with government guidance due to the requirements of lock down to keep people as safe as possible during the Covid19 pandemic. Our actions have been in line with providers across the country. The Council would like to assure you we are planning future service provision and what that might look like given the requirements around social distancing and the risks to service users. We will be contacting families shortly to discuss what the service going forward could look like.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	Liz Gifford	<p data-bbox="853 280 2063 485"><b>Question:</b> With the current restrictions many shops, schools, organisations in the cultural sector and businesses are coming up with ways of operating and sharing ideas within the current restrictions. In terms of re-opening day services in a safe manner what plans are there to work with providers to find answers?</p> <p data-bbox="853 536 1973 699"><b>Response:</b> The Council is working closely with day services providers to plan future service provision and what that might look like given the requirements around social distancing and the risks to service users.</p> <p data-bbox="853 750 1218 783"><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>

ITEM	Speakers Name	Question and Response
8	Paul Ridley	<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>Will the Council consider having an review of everything that has happened &amp; the Health &amp; Adult Social Care department so that if there was a 2nd wave, things would already be in place so that mistakes would not happen again &amp; could the review include working alongside carers like me who would be willing to help? I think that we could all agree we all want the best for everyone in the end &amp; we certainly don't want anyone to go through what we have been through.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>At the Council's Scrutiny Management Committee on Tuesday 9 June, the Committee resolved to instigate a Task a Finish Group to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the Council responded to the Covid-19 crises;</li> <li>• What were the strengths and weaknesses of the response;</li> <li>• How the Council's response compares with that of other local authorities; and</li> <li>• What lessons can be learnt / plans put in place to cope with future spikes/outbreaks and future pandemics</li> </ul> <p>As part of their evidence gathering the Task and Finish Group will be calling for witness statements from a variety of interested parties. I'm sure the group would welcome your input alongside those stakeholders and other parties who have been directly impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p>