

CABINET

6.30pm, Tuesday 1 September 2020

RESPONSES TO REFERENCES FROM OTHER BODIES

Agenda Item 8

	Document	Pages
8 (a)	Council (17 June 2020)	2
8 (b)	Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (24 June 2020)	2-3
8 (c)	Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee (14 July 2020)	3
8 (d)	Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (25 June 2020)	3

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(a) Council (17 June 2020)

That the Leader provide an update in respect of the Council motion of 18 September 2018 (Social Mobility Pledge)

Response from Councillor Pete Marland (Leader of the Council):

‘Increased social mobility is already embedded in the work of the Council with policies to improve the life chances of people living here. Initiatives such as one of the largest Council house building programmes in the country, and employment support programmes demonstrate this.

The social mobility pledge is aimed at businesses and educational institutions, and work will be undertaken to encourage businesses and skills providers in Milton Keynes to sign up to it, as is already happening with the Real Living Wage.

As an employer, the Council is disability friendly and has recently been awarded the gold award as part of the armed forces covenant. The number of apprenticeships is increasing and there are fair recruitment practices in place. In response to Black Lives Matters, a survey has been sent out to all staff to understand their views, and colleagues are planning further training for managers.

Finally, I can confirm that the Cabinet member for Finance and Resources will continue to make the case for adequate funding for Milton Keynes and that through our investment in our COVID-19 Recovery Framework we are doing all we can to support the development of more good jobs and to attract viable businesses to Milton Keynes’.

(b) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (24 June 2020)

That the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing be asked to explain the length of time it has taken to develop a plan for re-opening day care services.

Response from Councillor Hannah O’Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing):

‘Day centres offer a vital service to those affected by dementia, learning disability and frailty. Many help to support carers by providing respite from caring duties. All building-based day centres closed in March as part of the national lockdown to mitigate the risk from COVID-19. This action was necessary to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

Adult Services followed the advice set out by Central Government regarding opening of day services. Services have not been able to safely re-open on the basis that they were prior to COVID-19. However, we have been working with providers to open day services, paying particular attention to how this could be done safely. National guidance on the re-opening of day services from the Department of Health and Social Care was not issued until mid-July and services started to re-open within three weeks of this guidance. Officers will continue to work with providers, people with learning disabilities and their carers to ensure the safe delivery of support’.

(c) Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee (14 July 2020)

That Cabinet be asked to advise on whether there was funding allocated in the recovery budget to deliver on the recommendations of the Child Poverty Commission.

Response from Councillor Zoe Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families):

‘No specific funding is allocated in the COVID-19 recovery budget, although money has been made available for specific initiatives such as £30,000 to provide lunches throughout the summer holidays by the Children’s Centres. The final report for the Child Poverty Commission will be received by Cabinet in December, and it is anticipated that any recommendations will be considered as part of the budget setting process’.

(d) Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (25 June 2020)

That Cabinet consider the following recommendations (set out in page 3 of the agenda) in response to a presentation on Health and Wellbeing by Councillor Hannah O’Neill.

Response from Councillor Hannah O’Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing).

‘The areas highlighted have been noted and are important points as there is strong evidence in relation to the impact of wider determinants e.g. educational achievement, good employment, good standard housing on health.

We continue to invest in mental health and support, including new and innovative services like on-line resources for young people and we challenge our NHS partners to continue to develop mental health services. We are committed to addressing health inequalities through action on the wider determinants of health and our ten-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2018) has a strong focus on inequalities. The recent pandemic has highlighted the importance of how structural inequalities exacerbate differences in health outcomes, this underlines the importance of this area.’