

Health and Wellbeing Board

26th March 2015

Questions and Answers



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

(a) Question submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board by Mrs Martha Vickers:

“At a recent meeting, West Berkshire Council endorsed the results of the consultation (facilitated by Health Watch) on the Health and Well Being Strategy.

The Board will be aware of a revision to the Strategy approved at the same Council meeting. It was agreed that addressing drug abuse be included under the section on substance misuse, alongside alcohol and tobacco, thereby acknowledging that drug abuse is a health issue rather than simply a matter of criminal justice.

Could the Board therefore clarify what measures have so far been enacted or proposed to tackle the extremely disturbing health implications of this problem?”

The Chairman for the Health and Wellbeing Board answered:

The reference to “substance misuse” translates as: the misuse of an addictive substance i.e. alcohol, tobacco, over-the-counter medication, prescribed medication, illegal drugs, subsequently drug misuse is included within the strategy.

“Drug abuse” is not a recognised professional term.

Recently the Public Health and Wellbeing and Procurement Services within West Berkshire District Council, implemented a procurement process for a restructured and strengthened “Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service”. The successful applicant was Swanswell CT (Charitable Trust), an experienced treatment provider who commence service delivery as of April 1st 2015 for a period of four years with the option of a plus one option.

We are confident that the new revised structure will continue with the good work Turning Point had previously provided, an extract of strengthened services includes:

- Extend rural outreach for communities where travel is a negative issue
- Improve the rate of patient planned discharges from treatment
- Increase Blood Bourne Virus (BBV) testing and follow-up vaccinations
- Increase the number of residents entering treatment for the first time

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

Mrs Martha Vickers asked the following supplementary question:

*“Would Swanswell Charitable Trust be replacing the current service Turning Point, and if so would it be sited in the same location?”***The Chairman for the Health and Wellbeing Board answered:**

Plans were in place to extend outreach services in rural areas, in order of increasing the number of adults accessing services for the first time. Where the new service provider would be located was still in discussion.

Members' Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

There were no Member questions received in relation to items not included on the agenda.