

Questions and Answers

Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday, 30th September, 2021

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30 September 2021

Questions and Answers



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

(a) Question submitted to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care by Paula Saunderson:

“The Key Influencer measure 35 is indicating a rise in the number of Long Term Care clients supported by West Berkshire Council Adult Social Care, therefore may we please have a breakdown of this measure by broad age bands and care types please?”

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care answered:

Paula, I have a huge amount of graphs and tables that I would be very willing to send you in answer to this question, but I didn't want to just leave you with nothing today, so if you will bear with me, I will go through some of the numbers that I have, and then I am very happy to send you a pack that includes some graphs and tables that will perhaps wider inform you of the answer to this question.

This is a broad summary and hopefully gives you some of the detail that you need. You are absolutely correct – the number of long-term service clients has increased. Snapshot data from the last day of the reporting year is as follows:

- For 2018/19, we had 1,682 clients
- For 2019/20, we had 1,692 clients
- For 2020/21, we had 1,715 clients

In terms of age bands, across this period we have seen a reduction in the number of long-term service clients over the age of 65, which is quite interesting, and a growth in the number of those aged 18-64. Between 2018/19 and 2020/21, the over 65s actually reduced from 1,012 to 986, and for the same period, the 18-64 year olds increased from 670 to 729.

In terms of the type of support that people are receiving, the changes are essentially that there was a significant drop in the number of people over 65 in nursing homes during the period 2020/21, but the number has now returned to a similar position to before the pandemic. The number of people in residential homes also dropped in 2020/21, but has not yet fully returned to the pre-pandemic levels. There has been an increase in the number of people receiving support in the community across both age groups.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question?”*

Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:

Would it be possible to turn that Indicator 35 into a clustered stat column chart, so that you could have three sources of information in one picture? So if you stacked the chart with colours, you could have domiciliary, residential and nursing on the stack and if you split the column into two, you could have the two age groups and it would all be on one chart.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care answered:

I will certainly check and see. As you are probably very well aware, our systems and reporting is very much geared to the statutory reporting that we need to do, but if we can do anything with the output that we get from that system absolutely I will check with officers and see if we can do that for you.

(b) Question submitted to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care by Pauls Saunderson:

“What are the main sources of ailments that are giving rise to the increase in the number of Long Term Care clients supported by West Berkshire Council Adult Social Care and do they include any Long Covid as a cause for needing Adult Social Care services?”

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care answered:

Thank you for your question. It is important to note that our reporting system that I just mentioned is organised in order to meet the requirements set out by Government in terms of our statutory reporting responsibilities. Consequently, we can provide the long-term service client data by primary support reason. Examples of this would be memory and cognition, learning disability, mental health, and those types of reasons for needing the service.

It is also important to note that in Adult Social Care, we make great efforts to see people in the round, rather than defined by a specific medical condition. We also try to adopt a strengths-based approach where we try to make sure that we are looking at the strengths of each of those individuals or as part of a family community or other social group. Consequently, while details of ailments may be recorded within the assessment documents, it will be alongside other, equally important data, and we don't therefore single it out currently for reporting or other tasks. The only exception for that is autism, because there is actually a mandatory requirement to record this diagnosis where it's known. We don't record Long-Covid separately as a requirement for requiring Adult Social Care services.

The Chairman asked: *“Do you have a supplementary question?”*

Paula Saunderson did not have a supplementary question.

(c) Question submitted to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care by Paula Saunderson:

“The report for the Key Influencer measures states there are lower than expected occupancy rates in the 3 West Berkshire Council managed Care Homes, therefore are there currently any places that can be used by self-funder families for a loved one in the later stages of Dementia?”

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care answered:

The lower than expected occupancy in the Council managed care homes is due to the fact that the homes have not been in a position to admit new residents, and it has not been due to a lack of demand or referrals.

The care homes are careful to ensure that they can meet the needs of new residents and this is affected by a range of factors, including the starting position and the needs of existing residents. It is noticeable that many people are delaying admission to care homes until the individual's needs are at a high level, and this is affecting the ability of the homes to accommodate new people. We do occasionally admit self-funder clients, but the same considerations will apply.

What I'd like to say is that if you have any specific questions regarding this, I would recommend getting in touch, emailing the details through to me, and I'll make sure that the appropriate team responds to you.

The Chairman asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question?"*

Paula Saunderson did not have a supplementary question.

(d) Question submitted to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care by Paula Saunderson:

"In order to help self-funding families in West Berkshire who are prepared to look after their own loved one, will West Berkshire Council please look at the existing supply of adapted housing for Older Adults which might be available for private rental or private purchase, including advice on any sources that are currently available for those not on Housing or Adult Social Care registers? This is not including the schemes that you have to help people in their existing family homes."

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care answered:

This particular question doesn't sit nicely within my portfolio, but we've been in touch with the Housing Team and the Portfolio Holder who is responsible for the Housing Team, and they have confirmed that they will review this proposal over the next few months to see how this can be addressed and the advice that they can provide.

Again, I would suggest that if you have any further questions on this subject, with details that you would like to send through privately, then I'll make sure that the Housing Team receives them and responds to you.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care asked: *"Do you have a supplementary question?"*

Paula Saunderson did not have a supplementary question.
