

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Council Meeting – 23rd July 2015

Question 1 from Mr Ali to the Executive Councillor for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

Can the Council, please, state the number of care homes, nursing homes, palliative care homes and rest homes in Southend and the number of people in them who are financially supported by Southend Borough Council in part and wholly?

Answer

Care Home information July 2015

Care Homes for Older People (Non Nursing)	57
Care Homes for Older People which can take Nursing patients	8
Total Care Homes for Older People	65
Care Homes for Younger Adults (LD) (Non Nursing)	21
Care Homes for Younger Adults (LD) which can take Nursing patients	0
Care Homes for Younger Adults (MH) (Non Nursing)	7
Care Homes for Younger Adults (MH) which can take Nursing patients	4
Care Homes for Younger Adults (PSI) (Non Nursing)	2
Care Homes for Younger Adults (PSI) which can take Nursing patients	0
Total Care Homes for Younger Adults	34
Hospice	1
Residents funded partly or wholly by SBC in Care Homes for Older People	526
Residents funded partly or wholly by SBC in Care Homes for Younger Adults	82
Total Residents funded partly or wholly by SBC in Care Homes	608

Question 2 from Mr Ali to the Executive Councillor for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

As many of the residents in these homes are frail and elderly, what measures does the Council take to ensure that all care homes in the borough are non-smoking ones and are these restrictions being observed?

Answer

Southend Council monitor care homes to ensure they are adhering to the CQC guidance regarding smoking in a care home environment. The guidance states that

“Smoking will only be allowed in a designated room. This could be a person’s bedroom and/or room used only for smoking. Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) advise that rooms used for smoking only should not have any recreational equipment or furniture other than that necessary to meet the mobility needs of people using the room while they smoke. Where possible, people living in the residential accommodation should be consulted about the location of the designated smoking room”

Generally in Southend, smoking by residents has been agreed in specified outside spaces, areas or buildings. There are very few care homes in Southend with designated smoking rooms.

Question 3 from Mrs Chalk to the Leader of the Council

Question

Can the portfolio holder please let me know the following concerning the committee who are responsible for the hiring of Friars Community Centre at the Renown, Shoeburyness and the floor space:

- 1) When was this committee formed
- 2) Who appointed the committee
- 3) Does this committee have a constitution and is this registered with the council
- 4) Do the committee hold a public AGM and if so are the public able to scrutinise the treasurers report and minutes of the committee meetings

Answer

The Shoeburyness Community Centres Association manages Friars and Thorpedene Community Centres and arranges the hiring of these spaces.

1. The committee was formed shortly after the Council withdrew funding for the community centres with effect from October 2005.
2. The users of Friars and Thorpedene got together to form the Shoebury Community Centres Association.
3. The Shoebury Community Centres Association is a registered and constituted charity and the Council has a copy of the constitution. (Charity No: 1110798)
4. The AGM is publicly advertised with notices at both community centres in accordance with the constitution. The AGM is not a public meeting. Accounts are submitted to, and the key information is available for anyone to view on the Charity Commission's website.

Question 4 from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Public Protection, Waste & Transport

Question

The council are looking at strengthening the enforcement of laws governing cycling on the pavements. In crime prevention meetings across Southend including Westborough this is a bone of contention for residents. In Westborough we have had several incidents where residents have been injured. What specific steps will be taken by the council and the police to tackle this issue across all wards?

Answer

The Police Service are responsible for enforcing responsible cycling. The Essex Police recently launched a campaign in the Borough to encourage more responsible cycling and increased safety. During this operation, a number of cyclists were stopped and given advice about responsible cycling.

The Council will continue to provide 'on road' Bikeability training for all, to ensure they have the skills they need to enable them to ride on today's busy roads. This training is subsidised by a grant from the Department for Transport but only for children. Adults can access the same training, but this is offered at cost price. We are also working with colleagues in

the Council to provide free training via the Essential Living Fund for those who are out of work but need transport.

We are striving to create more safe segregated routes for cyclists where possible which will eliminate the need to cycle on the pavement, every infrastructure scheme includes a consultation of the needs of the cyclists and pedestrians. Our Prittle Brook Greenway route and sea front cycle routes are both very well used by all ages.

Question

Question 5 from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning & Regulatory Services

A landlord had to pay nearly £5,000. It took 12 months work and forcing 2 homes in a road in Westborough.

Why did the council believe an alternative person could act as both licence holder and manager provided by the guilty landlord then taken over the property by Southend Council?

Answer

To clarify, it is presumed the question relates to the Council's recent successful prosecution of Mr Collinson for failing to licence HMOs in Ramuz Drive (Westborough) and Edith Road which in fact lies within Prittlewell.

The legislation that covers the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) allows for an owner to put forward an alternative person as licence holder and/or manager for the HMO when they themselves do not wish to be, or are unable to be the licence holder.

The Council was not lawfully able to take over management of the properties in question because an appropriate alternative licence holder was put forward. The Council can only consider using a Management Order in relation to a House in Multiple Occupation when no such person is put forward. The fine was set by the Magistrates Court.