

People Scrutiny Committee – 28th November 2017

Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Children & Learning

Question 1

“When will the new school be built at Eastwoodbury Lane and how much will it cost to build?”

Answer

Thank you Mr Webb for your question.

In order to meet significant demand, for approximately 350 additional new school places each year between 2018-2020, and for the Council to discharge its statutory obligations to provide sufficient secondary school places, the Council has two options, a new (free) school or to expand existing secondary schools.

You will be aware that Cabinet has previously approved proposals to meet the short fall of secondary places through a free school in Southend, funded centrally through the Department of Education. As stated in your question the preferred site for this new school was identified as land owned by SBC at Eastwoodbury Lane.

Previous commitment for school expansion by Southend secondary schools has until recently, been limited. However, renewed discussions with Secondary Headteachers, has expressed a collective desire from schools to fulfil Southend's need for secondary places through expansion. These discussions, whilst in advanced stages are ongoing. Because of this the Council is currently working with those head teachers to confirm this commitment, providing additional places to the areas of need. Funding for school expansions is primarily met through Basic Need allocations paid annually by the Department for Education, through the Local Authorities annual School Capacity Survey.

At this stage, whilst we are currently unable to take the new school off the table, it is looking likely that the Council and secondary schools will be working together to enable expansion of our existing schools.

Question from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care

Question 2

“In the September monthly report CP3.9 the take up of NHS Health Check programme aim was 2,976 but only achieved 2,205. What plan is being used to make sure the target is met next month and what specific ages and NHS health programmes are being aimed at?”

Answer

The national NHS Health Check programme aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease. Everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with one of these conditions or have certain risk factors is eligible. The programme also aims to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of dementia, particularly in those people aged 65- 74.

The NHS Health Check programme in Southend is commissioned by the public health team and delivered by GP practices as well as a separate outreach service.

To ensure that the target is achieved, members of the public health team are working closely with a number of GP practices to assist with identifying and inviting eligible patients for their NHS Health Check. Work is also being undertaken with some GP practices to identify and contact those patients who have had the relevant blood tests but not yet attended to complete their NHS Health Check.

The outreach service is also targeting the NHS Health Check vehicle in areas of high footfall across the borough, supported by a communications campaign.