

COUNCIL

17 FEBRUARY 2022

QUESTION TIME

Question 1 – Play Streets

1. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Play Streets are neighbour-led short road closures, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. Play Streets typically allow children to play freely, without organised games or activities. In practice, this means children cycle, scoot, skate, chalk, skip, hopscotch, kick a ball around and make up games. They were first developed by parents on one street in Bristol in 2009; they have now been taken up by hundreds of street communities all over the UK, supported by councils and local organisations.

Would the Cabinet Member consider establishing the right for residents and communities to establish Play Streets in Worcestershire and would he agree to allow St John's or the whole of the west side of Worcester, to be a pilot area to test such schemes?"

Question 2 – Education, Health and Care Plans

2. Cllr Lynn Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education:

"How many EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) assessments have been completed within the 16 weeks, in 20/21 and 21/22 to date? How many plans have been completed within 20 weeks? What percentage of requests is that?"

Question 3 – Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunals

3. Cllr Dan Boatright will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education:

"It is welcome that the Council and Worcestershire Children's First (WCF) has acknowledged a greater need for transparency in the actions of its SEND services. Whilst talking to stakeholders I have been directed to the legal proceedings that the Council and WCF has experienced as parents fight to get the right support for their children. With this in mind, how much has been spent on legal costs, both internally and externally, in fighting parents of children with SEND in the tribunals and other legal proceedings in last 5 financial years? How much of this money has been spent on cases where we have settled before a tribunal date? And how much was spent

on cases where the decisions of WCF and the Council was found to be wholly upheld?"

Question 4 – Measures to assess the mental capacity to consent to marriage

4. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Is the Cabinet Member aware of growing concern about forced marriages of people who do not have the mental capacity to consent, either through mental health or dementia. Can he confirm what measures are in place in our registry offices to ensure all participants in marriage ceremonies have such mental capacity for consent?"

Contact Points

Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.