

COUNTY COUNCIL

18 APRIL 2018

QUESTIONS FROM AAPs

Question from Teesdale AAP

The TAP Board is pleased to see that Durham County Council has approved funding to construct a replacement household waste recycling centre at Stainton Grove. The TAP Board acknowledges that the new improved facility will provide a wider range of recycling opportunities, and make it easier to recycle household waste in the Teesdale area.

In response to this good news, the TAP Board would like to ask; 'if the funding agreed will cover the whole of the original project, or have there been alterations/reductions to the original plans?'

Response

Thank you for your question regarding the household waste recycling centre at Stainton Grove. I am delighted to confirm that all the original plans are retained incorporating new opportunities for trade waste recycling and furniture reuse. Furthermore, as a result of the public consultation additional enhancements have been provided including extra parking and pedestrian access. Taken together this will be a state of the art facility, and I very much look forward to it opening by the end of the year.

Question from Mid Durham AAP

Mid Durham AAP have 'improving mental health' as a priority for both our 'Health and Wellbeing' and our 'Children, Young People and Families' task groups. We did not examine mental health for children and young people this last year as we were aware that services were under review as part of the overall mental health strategy. However, we now note that the strategy is nearing completion and we would like to ask how the authority and its partners are planning to improve our children and young people's emotional resilience within and outside of school/college. We are also interested in how you and partners intend to promote these services to our children, young people and their families?

Response

Thank you for your question. Feedback from the consultation on the overall mental health strategy is now being considered. We are carrying out further consultation work in relation to children and young people. This includes work with Durham Association of Primary Heads (DAPH) and Durham Association of Secondary Heads (DASH) as well as AAP's.

There are already a wide range of available interventions to support young people to cope with life and manage risk taking behaviours better. For example

resilience nurses offer community drop-in clinics which means there is support available both within and outside of school. We also have Youth Awareness of Mental Health which is a programme for Year 9. County Durham is the first place in the UK to deliver this programme which began in 7 secondary schools during 2016/17, in 10 secondary schools this year and it will be in all mainstream secondary schools by 2019/20. Feedback from pupils and schools is very positive.

County Durham is also one of fourteen sites nationally to consider prevention with a focus on mental health which will include work within schools and our local communities and workplaces to promote mental health and tackle discrimination.

There is dedicated work across County Durham to consider the implications of the proposals within the recent Government green paper focusing on mental health in schools. Working closely with the national Anna Freud centre and the Local Government Association County Durham is looking at how we can better bring professionals together to jointly plan for improved leadership, delivery and outcomes of mental health in schools.

The revised mental health plan will include these interventions and more.

Clear communication to our children and families will be a priority as we implement the mental health plan. There are already some good examples. For example the resilience nurses mentioned earlier use social media to reach local communities with their services both in and out of school.

However we recognise there is still much to do and mental health will remain a key priority for us as a Council and partners as over 6,500 children and young people aged 5-16 in County Durham are estimated to have a mental health disorder