

Cabinet – 10 December 2015

Written Response to Questioner 5 not present at the meeting

5.

Questioner: Kate White

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: As commissioning responsibility for health visiting services were only transferred to the Council in October, it is clear that the Council will not have had sufficient time to consult with relevant stakeholders, consider options for mitigation, consult with service users, and assess how this cut would impact on the local community in comparison to possible cuts in other areas. It is out of keeping with international acknowledgement (see e.g. Michael Marmot and the WHO) of the need to invest in people from the youngest age possible, and the clear economic and social benefits of doing so. How can the Council justify making this decision when it has clearly not had the opportunity to fully think this through, particularly when it is so out of keeping with local, national and international strategy?

Written Response: At Harrow Council's Cabinet meeting, the Health Visiting Service budget savings proposal was withdrawn before the Draft Budget.

We are undertaking the review of the Health Visiting Service in Harrow, and we are awaiting further details from government about the funding settlement for the Council, on top of the £83m of cuts imposed by the Conservative Government on Harrow Council, and our residents, from 2014 to 2018.