

Public Questions

Mr Neil Perry

Q: I would like to ask Councillors on the Children's & Young People's Committee whether they agree that Early intervention helps to limit the need for children to enter the social care system, lay the groundwork for improved performance at school and even help to ease future pressure on adult social care by reducing the pressure on services for vulnerable adults.

A: The Local Authority believes in early intervention work and the Children's Change programme has been built on this commitment to early help services and linking our services better together and with others to ensure safe and supportive service for families.

I would like to ask what specific work is being undertaken with the County Council to better understand how financial investment in nurturing community resilience and early intervention support can help to manage needs within families and communities to avoid them escalating.

A: The County Council works with a range of partners and stakeholders in a wealth of different ways to develop community resilience and to enable families to thrive. This includes the development and deployment of a £1million pound innovation fund.

I would like to ask how, when considering the changes in demography and demand within the county, Councillors have specifically assessed the case for further financial investment in nurturing community resilience and providing early intervention family support, in order to get the maximum possible value for residents from every pound of public money spent and in order to do things differently to respond to changing needs and new opportunities.

A: A flexible, targeted and focused service that can adapt to a rapidly changing county is the ambition of our revised Child and Family Centre service programme: including a network of 27 buildings (Child and Family Centres and Zones), in places where they are most required; a substantial outreach service to take provision closer to rural communities; and a comprehensive online offer so that families can access vital information online. The new service is designed to enable it to be responsive to the changing demands of a growing population into the future.