

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 6

Brighton & Hove City Council

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

(i) The Carers' Centre

'In 2001, it was estimated that there were around 500 carers aged 8-17 years old in Brighton & Hove and 800 young adult carers. This is an old estimate, and it is believed numbers have increased significantly over the last decade, particularly in supporting those with mental health and substance misuse issues.

Currently there are 130 Young Carers supported by the Brighton and Hove Young Carers Project which obviously falls short of the numbers of potential Young Carers in need of support in our city.

Research has shown that a significant proportion of young carers suffer significant educational disadvantage. They are more likely to be bullied and find it more difficult to attend school and complete their homework because of their caring responsibilities. They often, therefore, underachieve in exams and struggle in the labour market. Research commissioned by Manchester Metropolitan University has highlighted the significant benefits to society, the individual and to the economy, from investment in services for young carers.

Please will you give priority to work to more accurately understand the number of and location of young carers in Brighton & Hove, to ensure Council and voluntary sector services are able to reach out to all or as many young carers as possible, and that appropriate resources are forthcoming to support young carers in their lives in general and in the often challenging roles they undertake, which is of enormous benefit to their families and to our society.'

