

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN</p> <p>In the light of previous concerns as to whether the hubs would be up and running by 1 September because of the tight timescale imposed by the restructuring of the CEF directorate, please can you update Council on the services now being provided by the hubs and when you expect them to be fully operational, if they are not already? Are there areas of the county currently without any provision because youth workers have been withdrawn and no community replacement has yet been identified? The hub open days will be welcome but (at the time of the deadline for questions) the dates are not yet known.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The hubs became operational as planned on 1st September 2011 following a lot of hard work by officers and partners. The newly appointed teams have been involved in a planned induction and will begin their work with families transferring into the new service as well as accepting new referrals from the week beginning 12th September. The teams will, as promised, be running open access and targeted youth sessions in hubs and satellites at least the same levels as before. It appears that some hubs have even planned to increase the offer. Considerable numbers of youth workers have been employed in every hub alongside a good professional mix from other services. The exact data of who has been appointed and from what professional backgrounds and who has become redundant will be available once the full process has been completed including employing displaced staff through the job finder service.</p> <p>With regard to other centres the picture is as follows;</p> <p><u>Big Society Projects at centres that previously received council funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatbox at King Alfred's School's School in Wantage • Bartholomew School taking over the centre on its site. • The Glyme Hall Management Committee take on running of the new youth club and adult education centre in Chipping Norton. • A Children's Centre is taking over the Wheatley Young People's Centre and the parish council is bidding for funds to run a youth club at the site. • FAZE Faringdon Youth and Community Centre takes over the youth centre in the town.

- Wolvercote Young People's Club Charitable Trust is taking on the operation of the Wolvercote Young People's Club also covering Cutteslowe.
- Carterton Town Council is buying the Allandale Centre to co-locate services including youth provision.
- Wood Farm Youth Centre are providing youth services from their centre.
- Oxford Boxing Academy bid to purchase the Saxon Centre site

Other youth centres/schemes that received Big Society Funding

- Banbury Young Homeless Project charity will be running a young people's centre, in Grimsbury, Banbury.
- Littlemore Village Hall are starting a project to provide activities for young people.
- Uffington youth club are restarting the local youth club.

We have worked hard to ensure that all asset transfers and funding agreements were in place for the beginning of September to enable community projects to start. It is now over to communities to develop their projects and get these going. It is likely that some projects will need some time to get off the ground.

Of the 26 centres funded by OCC there are already solutions for 22 and plans are underway/bids in to support the other four.

Round two Big Society Fund

Bidding has now closed for the second round of the Big Society Fund. We have received bids from communities where there were county run young people's centres and from a couple of those which the council provided some levels of support in the past.

Locality working groups of councillors will be reviewing bids during September with Cabinet decision making on which bids to fund in October.

Hub open days

In order to hear exactly what is happening locally from the hubs, the open days will provide opportunities for information sharing, meeting teams and asking further questions.

The hub open days, to which all are welcome, are as follows:

Open days will run from 10.00 am-6.00 pm, with a short presentation being delivered through the course of each day at 11.00 am, 1.00 pm and 4.30 pm.

- Abingdon Hub, The Net, Stratton Way, Abingdon, OX14 3RG - 12 October 2011
- Didcot Hub, The Vibe Youth Centre, Park Road, Didcot, OX11 8QX - 21 September 2011
- East Oxford Hub, Union Street Centre for Young People, Union Street, East Oxford, OX4 1JP - 14 October 2011
- Littlemore Hub, Oxford Academy Campus, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 6JZ - 19 October 2011
- Bicester Hub, The Courtyard Youth Arts Centre, Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6DJ - 14 October 2011
- Banbury Hub, Banbury Youth Centre, Hilton Road, Banbury, OX16 0EJ - 5 October 2011

As the Witney Hub building works have been delayed and refurbishments are still underway, the service in Witney is running from other OCC buildings. A briefing meeting will be taking place on 12 October 2011, 5.00 pm-6.30 pm for all interested parties and will be held in at the Woodgreen offices of West Oxfordshire County Council. A full open day will take place early in the new year at the Witney hub as soon as the building works are completed.

<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>In the light of the County Council's commitment to recycling and to encouraging walking, will the Cabinet member allow pedestrians full access to the Redbridge Recycling Centre? Will she say how many accidents to pedestrians without cars have happened at Redbridge in the last 3 years? Does she recognise the nonsense of forcing residents who live close by the Redbridge centre to use their cars to get to it?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The Council have a duty to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are run in a safe and proper manner. We are obliged to implement reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent accidents from occurring when a hazard is identified. None of Oxfordshire's HWRCs are able to allow people walking access because they do not have pavements that provide access or dedicated walkways around the site and, as such, we are unable to guarantee the safety of visitors arriving on foot. The Redbridge HWRC has recently had several health and safety inspections and a key point fed back to site was that for pedestrian's own safety we cannot permit them to walk in as there is no designated footpath or safe walkway. Just because an activity has occurred in the past it does not mean it is safe to continue allowing it to happen!</p> <p>The OCC contractors record near misses and accidents and in this case there have been no reported incidents.</p> <p>Pedestrian access will be reviewed as part of the redevelopment of the site.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the portfolio holder declare now that she will allow pedestrian access to the new recycling centre at Kidlington and indeed at Redbridge?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I don't think I can do that. Plans are at the embryonic stage, but I can assure the Councillor that the issue is going to be looked at and with all the best intentions in the world everybody that who goes to that recycling centre will be welcomed.</p>

<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member publish the contract between the County Council and Viridor for the waste incinerator at Ardley and when will she do so?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>As I have previously advised, it is my intention that the residual waste treatment contract with Viridor Oxfordshire Ltd will be made available as soon as is reasonably practical. Members will appreciate that the contract is long and complex and that throughout the contract there is information that is commercially sensitive. As such there is a significant amount of careful and thorough work required to check that genuinely commercially sensitive information is not published.</p> <p>I can confirm that this work is underway. However, the focus of officers has rightly been on dealing with the consequences of the legal challenge to the grant of planning permission and the delay this is causing to implementing the contract. I hope to be able to publish the contract as soon as resources allow.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member agree with me that not publishing the Viridor contract leads people to think that there are two things that she wants to cover up – one is the huge cost to the tax payer and the other is that because the County Council has a share of the profits of this Viridor plant, she doesn't want people to know that we have a vested interest in supplementing lots of waste from elsewhere?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The reasons that we are not publishing the contract at the moment are actually far more mundane and practical. There is no cover up. We are awaiting the result of the legal challenge as you well know. Ardley incineration have appealed to the Court of Appeal, they had the right to appeal turned down and they are now seeking a further hearing in person which is going to happen very shortly. We cannot make any moves on this situation until we know the results of that legal situation. I am sure Councillors will understand this, there is no cover up whatsoever and as soon as we are able to publish the contract we will.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member accept my thanks for the long-overdue improvements being made to Iffley Road in Oxford? Will he</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>Yes, I accept Cllr Tanner's thanks.</p> <p>As Cllr Tanner is aware from my response to him at Cabinet Member Decisions in</p>

<p>explain why he has refused to bring forward the date for the desperately needed pedestrian crossing at Percy Street? Does he recognise that delaying the crossing will result in inconvenience and danger for children and parents at the split-site SS Mary & John primary school for yet another academic year?</p>	<p>March, we had considered the possibility of bringing forward the construction of the zebra crossing, which was scheduled to be built in Phase 2 in Summer 2012. The problem was that it would have required a temporary facility to be built, including works that would have had to be removed and replaced during Phase 2, all at extra cost.</p> <p>However, the good news is that the Phase 1 works have been progressing well and will enable us to bring work on the crossing forward. The programme for Phase 1 has been restructured to maximise effective occupation of the carriageway and these works are now expected to be completed this calendar year instead of March 2012. The next phase of works from Henley Street to Percy Street are programmed to commence early in January 2012 and complete in May 2012, ahead of the projected timescale that was stated at the start of the project.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to ask the Cabinet Member whether he has had a look at the temporary crossing at the Sainsbury's roundabout at Heyford Hill in Oxford where they seem to manage a temporary crossing very successfully and will he accept my thanks for extending the cycle lane out of Oxford along the Iffley Road?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>

<p>5. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>What is the per square metre cost of tarmacing from scratch (both road and footpath if different)?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>It is very difficult to give any answer with any degree of accuracy. Each location will have unique characteristics and will require individual design and costing.</p> <p>Works under the new OCC contract are costed using first principles of plant, labour and materials and not using a schedule of rates. However, there are some general construction indices available and the typical construction cost of a single two lane bituminous construction in a rural location is approx £325 per square metre, this excludes design, junctions and structures (bridges) and any specific requirements (i.e. ecology or other mitigation requirements). Footways would have a range of £25 to £75 per square metre.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could all major projects in highways be agreed by the local councillor before they go ahead?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member for Transport consider the recent reimposition of parking charges on a Sunday before say 11am will have an effect on congregations attending church services in Central Oxford?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>Yes of course it will have an effect.</p> <p>As you will recognise, the reintroduction of Sunday and evening on-street charges in Central Oxford is regrettable but the current financial climate has left us little choice but to reintroduce these charges to help protect essential services. The original proposal was to bring Sunday charging in from 8am (as was the case from 1997 until December 2005) but as a result of the responses to the consultation process - particularly from church leaders and members of the congregations - I decided to relax the proposal so that the charges start at 10am. This means that those attending early morning services will not be charged at all, and those who arrive before 10am to take part in services at more family-friendly times will pay less than had been proposed.</p>

	<p>To introduce relaxations for Sunday church services would also discriminate against other religions whose services take place on Fridays and Saturdays, whom could justifiably claim that they should be afforded the same considerations.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>How many professional youth workers were there in Oxfordshire last year and how many will there be by the end of next year?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>At 30 September 2010 there were 35.4 f/t/e professional youth workers i.e staff who held the national community and youth work qualification either at foundation degree, degree or post graduate level working as youth workers or area youth workers or youth managers. At September 1st 2011 there are 29.5 f/t/e professional youth workers</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>The government used to fund careers advice for schools, but this funding has suddenly been stopped. How will young people now get the advice that they need from someone who knows them?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council have maintained a contract with Connexions Thames Valley providing information, advice and guidance (IAG) in all state secondary schools in the county. Connexions personal advisors are available to make contact with young people 13+, build and maintain relationships as appropriate to need. The contract provides IAG at three levels:</p> <p>Minimum: Young people who require information, advice, guidance and review of career, learning, employment and/or personal development choices.</p> <p>Supported: Young people who are at risk of disengaging and require in depth guidance and help.</p> <p>Intensive: Young people with multiple problems requiring intensive, sustained support. These young people may be identified by CAF processes. They may also receive additional support through the Early Intervention hubs.</p>

	<p>Young people who have left school can also receive IAG through the webchat service if they need minimum support, or if additional or intensive support is required through an Early Intervention Hub or voluntary sector contractor (contracted by OCC to provide an 'Additional NEET response' to target groups of most vulnerable NEET young people).</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>What is going to happen now that the government funding has suddenly been stopped? Are you viring money from another budget, can you guarantee that this will continue or will you put pressure on the coalition government to restore the funding that was cut.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Every secondary state school will have somebody there to help them with their career path and in fact we are investing more money into those young people that need the help, especially for those that are not in employment and training. We have been out to every school and I haven't been satisfied with the service that they have received before. I have listened to what Councillor Pressel has said and I think she will find that there will be much improved careers advice in schools.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>The police in Oxfordshire have done a fantastic job over the past 10 years reducing crime substantially. Neighbourhood Policing has also been a huge success (at least in the City).</p> <p>In view of this would the portfolio holder agree that it would be unnecessarily disruptive and a sad waste of money to bring in elected police commissioners, especially while simultaneously cutting the police budget by a whopping 20%?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KIERON MALLON, CABINET MEMBER FOR POLICE & POLICY CO-ORDINATION</p> <p>No.</p>

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
<p>This would have been a good opportunity for Councillor Mallon to take the opportunity to congratulate them for their excellent performance?</p>	<p>I have the greatest respect for our police officers. In fact I have the greatest respect for all those who serve in uniform in this country to keep us safe.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member give her support to the Barnardo's campaign to cut children free from sexual exploitation and ensure that the County Director for Children, Education & Families takes all appropriate steps to tackle the risk of this abuse to Oxfordshire children."</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>I certainly give my support to the Barnardo's campaign.</p> <p>The Director for Children, Education & Families has attached high priority to the risk of child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire and has been extremely proactive in ensuring that this serious form of child abuse is addressed across all child care agencies.</p> <p>Under the auspices of the Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board (OSCB), the CEF Directorate has established a multi agency group to consider this aspect of safeguarding. Close partnership working between the police and children's social care is in place to ensure a speedy response to all suspected cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE).</p> <p>The focus of our multi-agency OSCB group is to ensure that services/interventions are coordinated and that agencies work effectively together to: identify children likely to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation and intervene early to prevent this happening, support 'victims' in ways that will help them become survivors and give them the possible chance of leading successful lives, provide support to families and achieve successful prosecutions of perpetrators.</p> <p>In addition, the group is putting in place a process for capturing and recording data relating to known or suspected cases of sexual exploitation. This will help establish a baseline from which the extent of child sexual exploitation within Oxfordshire can be monitored.</p>

	<p>If further information around the steps being taken to tackle child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire is required, the Director would be very pleased to provide this.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank Councillor Chapman for a very full and detailed answer and for her support for Bernardo's. Can she assure Council that the work of the partnership will be reported back?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am happy to give that assurance, and may I just say that this isn't just a Director of Children, Education & Families and myself it is every bodies responsibility. We will be reporting back, certainly through scrutiny committee. I have looked at the work for the safeguarding board and Children's Trust so those reports will come back and we are doing everything we can as a high priority.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SARAH HUTCHINSON</p> <p>Youth workers, through building strong relationships with the young people they work with, can often spot small changes in behaviour that can indicate that they are having problems, in particular that they are experiencing domestic abuse. What measures are in place, following the restructuring of the youth service, to ensure that such children and young people, including those no longer in education are offered support before their problems escalate?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>In the redesign of services for children, young people and families we have been very mindful of the role of youth workers in building sustained relationships with young people and have included in the new Early Intervention Service opportunities for this work to continue as part of the new Early Intervention Hub programme. Every new Early Intervention Hub will be offering open access youth provision for young people enabling relationships to be built and any issues picked up as early as possible. We are continuing the same level of youth provision in the hub areas as previously existed. In relation your Cowley/Littlemore division we will be providing youth provision in Rose Hill young people's centre and are also supporting the development of youth provision offered through the voluntary and community sector in Littlemore through the Oxfordshire County Council Big Society Fund. Vulnerable young people identified within the youth provision, through partner links and directly by our Hub workers will be offered more intensive support. The linkage between the youth provision and support services will therefore be strengthened and young people will experience this as a more holistic service. In addition and specifically we will be ensuring that the role of the Domestic Abuse Champions is built into the hubs.</p>

<p>12. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The process of reducing the usefulness of the County Council continues apace:</p> <p>(a) How many posts have been removed since the process began?</p> <p>(b) What will the total cost of removing these posts be, including redundancy payments, early retirement payments and other costs?</p> <p>(c) Since the purpose of the decimation of local government is to reduce the Government's debt, by how much has the debt declined (or increased) since the present Government came to office?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KEITH MITCHELL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I resent the implication in your opening sentence. Those of us who are responsible for running this Council are doing all that we can to meet the necessary cuts in public spending as part of restoring the country's finances after ten years of Labour's budget deficit and to ensure the council offers the best quality services possible within the reduced financial envelope and I reject the tenor of your opening sentence.</p> <p>(a) The establishment has been reduced by 660 FTE between 1 March 2010 and 30 June 2011 (11%). Actual staff employed have been reduced by 541 FTE between 1 March 2010 and 30 June 2011 (10.25%). Senior management numbers have been reduced by 45% since June 2010 (the launch of the Business Strategy). This reduction in senior management numbers gives annual cost savings (salary and on-costs) associated with reduction in numbers from 158 to 82 of £2.75 million</p> <p>(b) The number of redundancies between 1 March 2010 and 30 June 2011 (excluding schools) is 127 with an estimated cost of £2.8 million. We have allocated £9.1 million overall as estimated redundancy and pension costs in our 2010/11 finance report.</p> <p>(c) The purpose of the coalition government's spending cuts is to eliminate the ongoing structural deficit in the national finances and to stop adding to the nation's national debt, thus preserving this country from the fate or potential fate of Ireland, Greece and Spain to mention only three. The structural fiscal deficit is reducing in line with coalition policy. In 2009/10, it was £107 billion pa; in 2010/11 it was £102 billion pa and, by 2014/15, is planned to be zero. The national debt mountain is still growing while this structural deficit exists but it is growing at a slower rate. In October 2009, it was £0.9 trillion; at July 2011 it was £1.18 trillion.</p> <p>Although you did not express any concern about the way in which we have handled the painful process of down sizing, you might be interested to know that our approach at all times has been to remove management posts and costs to protect essential services where at all possible. In addition, we have bolstered our support</p>
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	to displaced staff through our Career Transitions Service - the focus on redeployment wherever possible has enabled us to reduce our agency costs significantly - in Q1 2011/12 we reduced agency costs by £310,238 (39%).
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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
<p>I wonder if Councillor Mitchell will tell us whether the loss of 660 fte posts and £4m in costs in getting rid of those posts has reduced the usefulness of the Council?</p>	<p>In the context of this Country recovering from the financial crisis brought on by the last Labour Government, I think this Council is making an extremely successful response to that and is maximising its effectiveness within the state of the nation's finances.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The Cabinet seems to have reversed its decision to charge for parking at the Park and Rides, and instead will return three of the car parks to Oxford City Council and continue to subsidise parking at the other two car parks. In the run-up to the Budget setting meeting in February the Green Group discussed the potential income from an average charge of £2 a day at the Park and Rides. We estimated that there would be an average net income per year of more than £1.8 million per year for the five car parks; the appropriate official in Highways and Transport confirmed that our proposal had "the potential to achieve the income targets suggested".</p> <p>This suggests that the Council has decided to forego a substantial income despite its difficult financial situation. Could the Cabinet Member say how he intends to make up for this loss of income?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The County Council had to return the Park & Ride sites to the City Council as the City Council had invoked their right to terminate the agreement, and gave OCC twelve months Notice in September 2010. Notwithstanding this, the County were subsidising all of the Park & Ride sites at a cost of over £1million which the County's budget proposals were seeking to offset. The return of the sites to the City Council has saved the County in the region of £845k through the removal of the subsidy of the operation and compensation of loss of income to the City. The County therefore is able to meet its budget requirements by charging only for longer stay parking (i.e. London and Airport bound parking).</p>

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
<p>The estimates on the saving of the net income of the County Council of introducing charges to the two remaining park and ride could be in the region of £700,000 a year and £200,000 or £300,000. I wondered if Cllr Mitchell really thinks that the County Council could not make very good use of that £700,000?</p>	<p>It may be a Green Party aspiration to charge for park and ride parking but its never been ours. We set out to save £1m though our park & ride parking which we have achieved by a different way and we are happy with it.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>Under certain circumstances the NHS is required to pay the full cost of the domiciliary or residential care of a person with disabilities which would otherwise be paid for by the individual or the County Council. Such payments are often referred to as fully funded NHS Continuing Care. Oxfordshire NHS is attempting to reduce the amount of such payments for which it will accept responsibility.</p> <p>- Has there been such a reduction in the period since April 1, 2010? If there has been a reduction, what is the approximate amount?</p> <p>- Has this had an effect on the expenditure of the County Council? If so, what is the approximate amount?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>There has been an overall reduction of PCT spending on Continuing Care of £4m which is a 25% reduction on 2009/10 figures. This figure ties in with the number of people receiving Continuing Health Care over that period.</p> <p>In terms of impact on Social and Community Services it is difficult to accurately quantify as we manage our placements and therefore our budgets through a quota system. However where this may be impacting is in waiting lists for those who are managed within this system both in the community and also in acute and sub-acute care. It also impacts on those who have to pay for their personal care.</p> <p>We are in comparison to other PCTs a low spender on Continuing Care – however the reduction in spend over the last two years has been higher than that seen in other PCTs.</p> <p>262 people received Continuing Healthcare payments from Oxfordshire PCT in the last quarter of 2010/11 or 4.3 people per 10,000 population. This compares with a figure of 7.5 for the South Central Health Authority and 10.5 for the country as a whole. The rate in Oxfordshire PCT is the 6th lowest in the country out of 151 PCTs.</p> <p>In the last two years the number of people receiving payments in Oxfordshire has dropped by more than 50%. In South Central SHA area there was a corresponding</p>

	<p>drop on 25%, but nationally the figure rose by 19%.</p> <p>As Cllr Sanders is aware, Adult Services Scrutiny Committee has agreed to look at this issue further at its next meeting. I welcome that.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to ask him to question the statement that he makes that “we won’t loose any money on this because we upgrade a funded system” and I would like him to tell me how that coded system works because my understanding is that you are not permitted to run a coded system.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will supply a written reply to councillor Sander explaining the system in detail.</p>