

## **Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**16 June 2020**

### **Questions Submitted by Councillors under Question Time (agenda item 7)**

#### **1. Question from Cllr Parker to Cllr Bell, Executive Members for Adult Social Care and Health**

“It’s being reported that unlawful Do Not Resuscitate instructions are being applied to people with learning difficulties during this pandemic. What assurance can the Exec Member for adult social care give us that this isn’t the case in North Somerset and how does he know.”

#### **Response from Cllr Bell**

“A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is a medical decision and not something that requires patient consent or involvement from social care teams. However, not consulting with the patient or their family would be a breach of human rights.

Both the Care Quality Commission and NHS England have issued warnings to doctors that blanket DNRs are wrong and decisions must be made on the individual patient.

Our learning disabilities team is integrated with community health services run by Sirona - and has close ties to the Clinical Commissioning Group – the team have not come across any instances of incorrectly applied DNRs in North Somerset nor had these reported to us from families.

The local authority would treat any such instances of incorrectly applied DNRs as safeguarding investigations were they to arise.

The Clinical Commissioning Group are clear that they continue to expect all clinical staff to follow correct legal procedure in regard to DNRs with people with Learning disabilities; and have similarly not highlighted any examples of poor practice in North Somerset.

A specific Learning Disabilities and Autism ‘cell’ has been established through the COVID-19 period covering the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area. This is attended by community health providers, acute trusts, local authority and voluntary sector staff. Issues with DNRs have not been raised through this forum as a concern locally.”

#### **2. Question from Cllr Cronnelly to Cllr Gibbons, Executive Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning**

“There’s been some talk from the Government about the re-opening of schools and children’s education. What as a council do we want to see from the Government, and what do we need from them, to ensure the best for our children’s education in North Somerset following COVID-19?”

**Oral response from Cllr Gibbons to be provided at the meeting.**

**3. Question from Cllr Cato to Cllr Petty, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environment**

“First, some context and background.

At the Executive meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February, I addressed the Executive, referring to the Council’s climate emergency declaration and commitment to become a carbon neutral area by 2030.

It is currently estimated that to do this, we will need to consistently reduce GreenHouse Gas emissions by more than 13% per annum. As we can't control what we don't measure, we cannot achieve our commitment without measuring GHG emissions.

In order to demonstrate to members how decisions we make do or can reduce GHG to meet this objective, we will need clear, unambiguous metrics for each application; report and project.

I asked the Executive to consider setting and approving an objective for such a proposal, and it was agreed that we would receive a report at the next Council meeting.

I appreciate Covid-19 has overtaken us since then and has rightly taken our focus, however....

My Question.

I would like to ask what progress has been made on this?”

**Oral response from Cllr Petty to be provided at the meeting.**