

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
25 July 2019**

1.	<p>Councillor M H Jones</p> <p>In relation to Annual Report on Regional Working 2018/19</p> <p>Asked a question relating to the lack of Scrutiny relating to Western Bay (West Glamorgan Regional Partnership). Councillor M C Child explained that the Regional Partnership would welcome being scrutinised</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>Response to follow.</p>
2.	<p>Councillor P M Black</p> <p>In relation to Annual Report – Director of Social Services</p> <p>Asked a question relating to the response that he received in relation to Councillor Question 10. He stated that the response did not answer his question, instead it gave details of the Council's contract with the YMCA. The YMCA are not contracted to carry out statutory assessments of young carers. He asked that the Director of Social Services provide an amended answer addressing all the points in the original question?</p> <p>Response of the Director of Social Services</p> <p>Thank you for your question in relation to what arrangements are in place to fulfil the Council's legal obligation to assess and support young carers under the age of 18 and what does the assessment consist of? How many young carers have such an assessment in place? Please see information below:</p> <p>Children who are caring for someone are legally entitled to a carers assessment by social services. This should be a proportionate assessment based on 'what matters' to them. This assessment may be completed by social workers at the 'front door' in the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Team or one of the various social work teams in the Supported Care Planning Section of Child and Family Services. Further detail on the content of the assessment is provided at the bottom of this response.</p> <p>Part of the proportionate assessment will be to look at the extent to which support, preventative services, or the provision of information, advice or assistance could assist in achieving the identified outcomes. Therefore, in many cases, the young carer's outcomes are entirely appropriately met by Social Services referring them to the Council commissioned young carer project run by the YMCA.</p> <p>However, it is accepted that there are deficiencies in terms of the information we (Social Services) capture in relation to young carers. We do not have any reliable information on the number of assessments being completed. Part of the difficulty is that it is possible, and often appropriate, to combine the assessments of the carer and the cared for person.</p>

For example, where the caring responsibilities are having a significant impact on the young carer, the best way to achieve their personal outcomes is often to change the care plan of the cared for person: By increasing the support package for the cared for person, the expectations and responsibilities of the young carer are reduced. Unfortunately, our existing information management system is not able to adequately capture these sort of nuances.

Notwithstanding these shortcomings, there is good reason to believe that we are becoming better at identifying and supporting more young carers. In 2015/16, there were 29 young carers known to the Council's commissioned services compared to 93 last year. There are a number of factors for this increase, but one is likely to be the greater awareness of the issue amongst practitioners.

Child and Family Services has recently formed a working group to look at young carers. One aspect of this work is how the forthcoming change of information management system (with the introduction of WCCIS) will hopefully allow us to better capture activity regarding young carers.

Another objective of the working group is to develop best practice guidance for practitioners assessing young carers. While the guidance is not yet complete, it is clear that, as with any other assessment of care and support needs, it is important that it covers:

- their individual circumstances;
- their personal outcomes;
- any barriers to achieving those outcomes;
- any risks to them (or others) if those outcomes are not achieved; and
- their personal strengths and capabilities.

In addition, an assessment of young carers must also include some specific questions:-

- How are the caring responsibilities impacting on their development? Do they need to be considered as a child in need of care and support by virtue of s21 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 as opposed to as a young carer?
- What outcomes do those individuals with parental responsibility for the young carer wish to see them achieve?
- Are their caring responsibilities having such an impact that it is not appropriate for the young carer to continue caring?
- For Young Carers aged over 16 and 25, are there possible changes in relation to your education, employment or training?

A draft version of the Guidance is due to be circulated for consultation with stakeholders by the end of August 2019.

It is our understanding that these issues exist across all Welsh local authorities and this has prompted targeted inspection activity by CIW to be carried out in the next few months. Any feedback from CIW on required improvements will further inform local developments.

3.	<p>Councillor P N May</p> <p>In relation to Councillors Question – Question 1</p> <p>What types of evidence does the Council require in order to gain the likely prosecution of a person for fly tipping.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Each case of criminal activity, in particular fly tipping, is dealt with uniquely, however basic evidence to start an investigation would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the offence occurred, • any witnesses, • would witness be prepared to give a statement and possibly attend court if a prosecution were to be pursued • what type of waste had been illegally tipped, • the amount of waste, • evidence in the waste to lead to the owner, • if the owner of the waste can be traced, details of who took their waste away, • how much they paid, • details of the vehicle used to remove their waste, • would the owner of the waste be prepared to make a witness statement that they gave waste to a third party. <p>It is complicated, as each case is different.</p> <p>It would then be down to our legal department to decide if there is enough evidence to proceed with a prosecution in court.</p>
4.	<p>Councillor E W Fitzgerald</p> <p>In relation to Councillors Question – Question 5</p> <p>How many residents wrote in, sending their car parking tickets in as proof of purchase following them having a Parking Enforcement Ticket due to a failure to display their ticket.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>The current parking management software does not enable a report to be obtained with information on how many appeals have been received due to failure to display a ticket correctly, when proof has been supplied of a valid pay and display ticket. However, we are currently in discussion with the software supplier to see if amendments can be made to separately identify these cases, which will allow this information to be easily identified to provide statistics in future.</p>

5.

Councillor A M Day

In relation to Councillors Question – Question 6

1. Are Council's being consulted with as a body in relation to bank branch closures.
2. What effect do bank branch closures have on digital inclusion?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well

I very much regret that Councils are not consulted on bank closures, these are very much commercial decisions taken by banks and like you I am not sure that they truly appreciate the wider ramifications on communities. As I indicated in my previous answer, the Council offers a wide number of channels for payment, some of which are digital, and some not, fully recognising that digital exclusion could otherwise occur.

The Council does not hold data on the direct effects of bank decisions but it is clearly likely that some residents will be digitally excluded as a result of those commercial decisions.