

Mr Hawker

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Child
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Our Ref: MC/HS
Your Ref: ref
Date: 13 December 2018

Dear Mr Hawker

Thank you for your questions at the Scrutiny Panel on 10th December 2018.

Q1

Would the Cabinet Member please explain, as to how the average Swansea Council resident could be aware of the work being undertaken on their behalf, when Swansea Council does not even print/publish the informative quarterly newsletters produced by the Western Bay Office, nor make use of Swansea Council social media feeds -- Twitter/Facebook etc, to easily and quickly inform it's residents of the wide range of Western Bay work programs relating to Health & Social care issues which impact upon their lives. ?

A1

Minutes and Agendas are currently published on Western Bay's own website (www.westernbay.org.uk/regional-partnership-board-minutes) because it was felt that this made the best sence and would negate the need to upload the documents by each Council and the Health Board separately. However, a link to the papers is included on the Western Bay page of Swansea Council's website. Western Bay's informative quarterly newsletters are also available from this direct link.

Q2

Would the Cabinet Member please advise, if Swansea Council considers and implements a ' Public Interest ' test, for publishing information to actively inform Swansea residents, when it's Officers & Councillors meet, discuss and plan with external bodies outside of normal Swansea Council meeting venues, which results in significant changes being made to Health and Social Care work programs affecting Swansea Council residents.?

A2

Whenever significant changes are being made we take steps to actively inform the public in general and groups with interest specifically. This would be the case whether the changes were initiated within the Council area, within the Region or Nationally. There might not be a specific Public Interest test, but where changes are judged to be

significant information is made available, and specific effort is made to inform any current users of services.

May I add that the Western Bay RPB is a partnership arrangement that promotes collaboration and integration across health and social care. It has no legal authority to implement any changes to how the Council meets its responsibilities to provide Social Care to the citizens of Swansea. Only Cabinet can make such decisions (and likewise only the Board of ABMU or the Cabinet of Neath-Port Talbot). This is set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act of 2014. Any recommendation for improved services that comes from the work within the RPB has to then come to Cabinet for a decision. Therefore all such decisions are subject to exactly the same level of public Scrutiny as any other.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Child', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Mark Child
CABINET MEMBER FOR CARE, HEALTH & AGEING WELL