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Overview & Scrutiny Committee, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008

Please find enclosed answers to advance submitted questions

6. **CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING (PAGES 1 - 8)**
  
7. **INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HARINGEY LIFE EXPECTANCY ACTION PLAN (PAGES 9 - 14)**
  
11. **CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (PAGES 15 - 24)**

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Williams  
Principal Committee Coordinator

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**Overview & Scrutiny Committee, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**  
**Questions to Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Wellbeing**

<b>Page/ Point</b>	<b>Question/Observation</b>	<b>Answer (Where applicable)</b>
N/A	<p><b>From Councillor Egan:</b></p> <p>1. Can the Lead Member outline the possible future contribution his portfolio can make to multi agency approach to tackling homelessness?</p>	<p>Adult, Culture and Community Services [ACCS] is already making a significant contribution in supporting the Borough's strategy to tackle homelessness and the number of households in temporary accommodation. This includes a substantial investment of senior manager and officer time and expertise and of resources and services.</p> <p>Members are already no doubt aware of the Borough's highly successful Supporting People [SP] programme, which is led and managed by ACCS. Since 2003 this programme has developed over £20 million worth (per annum) of support services, which have the aim of preventing homelessness amongst our most vulnerable families and households and which offers intensive support and advice to help homeless people move on from temporary accommodation. In total this programme supports nearly 10,000 vulnerable households living in the Borough in maintaining their independence and accommodation. Government performance information collected by the Council's Supporting People Team points to these services playing a major and highly effective role in ensuring that our most vulnerable residents remain independent and do not lose their housing. More specifically the programme has developed three direct access support services, which are accessible to members and residents over the telephone and which do not require a referral from a statutory agency. The HARTS service works with 700 families, the Key Support Service works with 400 single people and 60+ works with 300 vulnerable older people.</p> <p>These services can support over 2,000 households a year who may have a wide range of low and high level challenges likely to threaten the security of their accommodation and put them at risk of homelessness. In 2007 over 40% of the</p>



		<p>total number of households with whom these services work (where threat of homelessness was identified as a support need) were successfully able to address their rent arrears through the support they received. Therefore this represents 800 households whose homelessness was prevented. These services also managed to prevent nearly 200 households, who had received notices to quit or where a court order was being sought by the landlord, from being actually evicted. All these services work very closely with the Council's Housing Service and provide daily support and advice surgeries at the Housing Service based at Apex House. There are plans to fully integrate them into the statutory homeless services to ensure that every vulnerable household who presents as homeless is given the support they need as soon as they seek assistance and advice.</p> <p>In total approximately £9 million of SP investment is specifically targeted at support specifically designed to prevent and tackle homelessness. It is likely that the temporary accommodation reduction target will be a key LAA indicator set for the Supporting People programme and ACCS.</p> <p>I would also like to point to the fact that senior commissioning managers and officers played a substantial role in the development of the new homelessness strategy and are continuing to offer significant support in taking the strategy forward, including being a part of a number of the key delivery groups. This also includes continuing work on improving the operational arrangements and joint working between Housing, Adult Social Care, the NHS TPCCT and the criminal justice agencies.</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>2. Can the O&amp;S Committee be updated on the delegated budgets in relation to individual Personal Care packages?</p>	<p>The Transforming Social Care Programme for Adults is made up of four areas for development :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Preventative Services e.g. the provision of information, advice, drop in and resource centres and services provided by health and social care via libraries and recreation services</li> <li>• Early Intervention and Emergency services e.g. duty, intermediate care and re-ablement after hospital discharge</li> <li>• Self assessment, self directed support and individual budgets ( using</li> </ul>



<p>existing fair access to care criteria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Capital and Co-production e.g. advocacy, volunteering, social enterprise and neighbourhood support</li></ul> <p>Of these, Early Intervention and Emergency Services and Universal Preventative Services are well developed in Haringey except that a more integrated information, advice and access service is required at the front end of the access pathway to self directed support. This has been addressed by agreeing to develop a one stop integrated access team for all service user groups except for mental health services. Version 1 of the pathway to self directed support, to be used by all teams, has also been agreed for testing in the pilots. The development of self assessment and self directed support is being carried out in two pilot projects - one for people with Physical Disabilities and one for people with Learning Disabilities. The pilot project with people with Physical Disabilities is well advanced, having started three months ago, is testing the self assessment questionnaire, has a 10 strong group of service users working with the project and is consulting with carers as to how self assessment of their needs should fit with self assessment of the service users needs.</p>	<p>The Learning Disability pilot has only just started and so progress will have to be reported later. The next steps are to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop the Resource Allocation System which draws together the various budgets which together will underpin the Individual Budget</li><li>• Develop an agreed approach to the roles and functions of Support Planning and Brokerage and test it in the pilot projects</li><li>• Begin the development and reconfiguration of Frameworki, the department care management IT system, so that it can facilitate the development and implementation of self assessment and self directed support</li></ul> <p>The programme is on course to achieve the original aim of going out to formal consultation on the pilot for people with Physical Disabilities in April - May 2009/2010 with implementation taking place in June 2009/2010. The Learning Disability pilot will now take a little longer and aim for consultation in June - July</p>
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		<p>2009/2010 and implementation in August 2009/2010. The development of social capital and co-production will focus on the development of advocacy services and social enterprise during 2009/2010.</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>3. What respite care is available to Haringey residents? Can costs involved be outlined?</p>	<p>Haringey residents can access respite care both from in house LBH provision and independent providers (both private and voluntary sectors). Based on our activity and expenditure during 2007/08 the average cost of one week residential respite (all client groups) in independent provision was £701.73 whilst in Local Authority average unit cost was £607.06. Service Users will receive a flat weekly rate charge for the first eight weeks of respite during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18-24 yrs £52.65 (£7.52 per day)</li> <li>• 25-59 yrs £65.20 (£9.31 per day)</li> <li>• 60+ yrs £102.90 (£14.70 per day)</li> </ul> <p>After eight weeks a full charging assessment (CRAG assessment) will be carried out.</p>
<p>Page 1</p>	<p>4. Can the innovative working practices with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector and BME communities be explained? What good practice has been identified and embedded into everyday working across the department?</p>	<p>Adult, Culture and Community Services [ACCS] acts as a partner/commissioner of services in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector. Many of the innovative services that are operated by the independent sector are funded in part by the Council to enhance the range of services made available to residents. The innovative nature of the services is often possible because of the organisation's non-statutory status and their ability to secure funding from the Lottery and various charitable foundations.</p> <p>The good practice identified is that of service user engagement. ACCS is now actively involving people receiving care, carers and staff in shaping and developing social care services, for example – the work undertaken with the growing Chared's Jewish community to develop self-help strategies and inform service delivery. Early successes include exploring skills and resources together, considering an Extra Care Housing development and culturally sensitive safeguarding training. These have been cited by the IDeA as innovative practice.</p>
	<p><b>From Councillor Winskill:</b></p>	



1	<p>5. Please tell us how many people are using Telecare and what the income to the Council now is.</p> <p>As more people use the service, will it be possible to take advantage of economies of scale and reduce the cost to individuals?</p>	<p>No, it will not be possible to take advantage of economies of scale and reduce the cost to individuals as the service is heavily subsidised. Equipment expenditure for 2008/09 is expected to be approximately £109k full year effect.</p> <p>472 people are currently using Telecare equipment. This includes 304 Telecare units and 168 Telecare sensors. The income to the Council from 01.04.08 to date is £17.5m.</p> <p>The weekly charge for monitoring and response is £5.97 plus 50p for additional sensors.</p> <p>The cost of Telecare in Haringey is in line with TSA (Telecare Standards Association).</p> <p>All service users are eligible for help for payment through Fairer Charging Assessment.</p>
1	<p>6. How many more people with disabilities were supported into work? Please give figures for last year and this.</p>	<p>Haringey Deaf Job Club has assisted 12 people into employment in 2007/08.</p> <p>Haringey Phoenix Group with Action for Blind People provides computer training for people with visual impairments. The group provided training to six people in 2007/08. Phoenix Group assisted 10 people into employment. The Phoenix Group provide a 12 week computer training course using specialist software for people with visual impairment. The programme provides for up to 50 places each year.</p> <p>KINESIS Employment and Training Project for People with Substance Misuse Issues provided 50 volunteering placements, 78 people completed accredited training courses and 15 people entered the employment market.</p>
1	<p>7. Last year, the PCT announced changes to demand management leading to patients leaving hospital earlier after treatment. What affect has this had on the demands for support services as care is transferred to Haringey? Is there any indication on the</p>	<p>The NHS nationally has taken a three pronged approach to delivering reduced delayed transfers of care/discharges from acute and non-acute hospitals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing admission</li> <li>• Reducing the length of stay through improving internal processes and care pathways to improve the patient journey within the hospital setting.</li> <li>• Ensuring discharge to the most appropriate setting with the right level of</li> </ul>





	<p>effects on clinical outcomes experienced by patients?</p>	<p>community and primary care support, including intermediate care.</p> <p>This has had an impact on both the numbers of service users who require social care services from the Council and in the level of dependency that is being supported. Haringey Primary Care Trust has recognised the important role of Rapid Response keeping delayed discharges to a minimum and importantly admission avoidance. The TPCT has invested £100k into Rapid Response in 2008/09.</p> <p>In 2007/2008, the Rapid Response Team completed a total of 885 assessments of which 559 service users received a care package. The pattern for increased demand is continuing with a 50% increase in referrals for the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year.</p> <p>Whilst there has been an evident increase in the number of cases being dealt with by community based services as a result of a national drive on the part of the NHS to reduce delayed transfers of care, Haringey Council and TPCT have been able to respond to this in an appropriate way, with multidisciplinary teams in place and with increased levels of investment.</p> <p>In relation to clinical outcomes every service user referred to Adult Services 'Rapid Response' as part of hospital discharge/admission prevention is monitored and reviewed within the six-week period. Where there are clear, health related needs these are monitored and reviewed as appropriate by a health care professional.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>8. Please give more information on the creation of a joint visiting team with DWP.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 'Fairer Charging Practice Guidance' issued by the Department of Health in August 2002 sets out the department's views about 'maximising user's income with Benefits advice and support' and working in partnership with Benefits &amp; Local Taxation Service, the Pension Service and Jobcentre Plus.</li> <li>2. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) / Local Government Association</li> </ol>





		<p>(LGA) policy document 'Link-Age - Developing networks of services for older people' further set out the concept of joint teams in the context of other 'third age' partnership arrangements.</p> <p>3. The Pension Service first contacted Social Services in October 2002 to initiate joint working arrangements. A permanent programme of surgeries was arranged at community locations around the borough and informal joint working has been extended to include take-up initiatives involving joint advice stalls with staff from ACCS and Benefits &amp; Local Taxation. The recent 'Claim It' event at Wood Green library is a good example of this model.</p> <p>4. The Council first considered the idea of a Joint Visiting Team as part of a Scrutiny Review of benefits take-up, which concluded that the implementation of a full Joint Visiting Team may be problematic. The review did however ask that joint working arrangements with the Pension Service be kept under review.</p> <p>2.3 Local authorities across the country were slow to take-up the Joint Visiting Team initiative and in response The Pension Service introduced revised 'Joint Working Partnership' arrangements, which are more flexible and easier to implement.</p> <p>5. A number of meetings with The Pension Service have taken place and a draft 'Joint Working Partnership Agreement' is currently being developed.</p>
	<p><b>From Councillor Alexander:</b></p>	
<p>Page 1 - Achievements</p>	<p>9. Whilst it is good to see where we have achieved, are there any areas where the Council has significantly underachieved? If so, where and how are the Council planning to address these issues?</p>	<p>There are no areas of significant underachievement in Adult Social Care. There are, of course, areas in which we are working to improve.</p>



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**Overview & Scrutiny Committee, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**  
**Questions on item 7, Interim Progress Report:**  
**Implementation of Haringey Life Expectancy Action Plan**

Page/ Point	Question/Observation	Answer (Where applicable)
Page 2 – 4 Interim findings from the LEAP Review	<p><b>From Councillor Alexander:</b></p> <p>4.8 – How does the Haringey TPCT plan to carry forward action to improve detection and management of diabetes in Haringey?</p>	<p>Diabetes is an important cause of premature mortality and morbidity. It contributes to lower life expectancy in Haringey and to health inequalities.</p> <p>The prevention, improved detection and management of Diabetes are key priorities for Haringey TPCT (HTPCT). For example, they are essential parts of the initiatives in the 5 year strategic plan (currently being drafted) that aim to: prevent and manage long term conditions; to establish a vascular disease prevention programme; to improve diabetic retinal screening uptake and to strengthen primary care. This work, builds on activity underway already and requires close working with partners in the voluntary sector, the council (e.g. leisure services, education services), the public and primary care colleagues.</p> <p>Key elements of the work underway and in development are:  <u>Primary prevention of diabetes:</u> through implementation of the agreed obesity care pathway and continued support of the stop smoking service, with a focus on “hard to reach” groups.            Work with partners e.g. local authority and voluntary sector on</p>



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	<p>encouraging physical activity and tobacco control legislation are key to these approaches.</p> <p><u>Cardio vascular risk assessment and prevention:</u> A programme of inviting 40-74 year olds for cardiovascular disease (diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease) screening and risk assessment is being developed to build on current work within primary care. It will commence in 2009 with a phased introduction over a few years. This programme, supported by some investment, will assess the risk of individuals for these important causes of disease and of health inequalities and then give appropriate advice (e.g. weight management advice) or treatment (e.g. cholesterol lowering drugs) according to their risk.</p> <p><u>Diabetes Care Pathway:</u> The diabetes pathway has developed considerably in the last year due, in no small part, to the focus group which is made up of 25 people with diabetes. It draws on best practice and best evidence to manage diabetes.</p> <p><u>Working with primary care:</u> HTPCT will continue to work with primary care colleagues to ensure greater consistency in the prevention and management of diabetes e.g. through the obesity and diabetic care pathways, staff education and through the vascular prevention programme above.</p> <p><u>Working with patients:</u> On 27<sup>th</sup> November the hand held record was launched which is a patient friendly health record to be kept by the patient at home and to be taken to appropriate medical appointments. The record is designed to set out the facts about the medication etc and also to set out how the patient wants to manage their condition, so the patient is in control of what happens with assistance from the professionals around them. It is a flexible pack in that it is a</p>
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<p>generic “long-term conditions” record, with the focus on diabetes to begin with. <i>(we can supply a copy of the hand held record if members wish to view this)</i> . This year HTPCT has also invested in developing the DESMOND project with an emphasis on changing the way health professionals interact with patients and focusing on encouraging self-management. <u>Diabetic retinal screening:</u> This programme aims to reduce the progression of diabetic retinal disease, an important cause of blindness. HTPCT has invested further in Retinal screening and there has been an increase in the number of patients screened. The programme will continue to be monitored and developed.</p> <p><u>Working with partners and communities:</u> A key element of diabetes prevention and management is to encourage people with risk factors for diabetes, or early diabetes to come forward, particularly from “hard to reach” groups. In the next year we will work with partners in the voluntary sector and the council to engage communities e.g through health trainers or social marketing techniques (targeted marketing of health messages). Plans are underway to get the message out there to our community through links with Mosque and other important and influential community groups to reach those as yet not aware of their condition.</p>	
<p>Key interventions that will make a difference include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving early access to antenatal care;</li> <li>● Reducing smoking by pregnant women;</li> <li>● Addressing substance and alcohol misuse;</li> <li>● Reducing teenage pregnancy;</li> <li>● Promoting breastfeeding;</li> <li>● Tackling the causes of low birth weight babies;</li> </ul>	<p>4.9 – How is the Haringey TPCT addressing high infant mortality rates in Haringey?</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the health of the mother pre-conception and during pregnancy.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are we doing in Haringey?</b></p> <p>An action plan to tackle infant mortality in Haringey was developed in 2004 and is currently being reviewed against the latest guidance from the Department of Health. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further analyses to understand the factors in perinatal and neonatal deaths and a review of the evidence base for effective interventions;</li> <li>• Improving access to antenatal care including collecting information on late bookers in order to inform the commissioning of antenatal services and to improve how we provide information on antenatal services including screening for mothers who may not be accessing services;</li> <li>• Strengthening of the smoking cessation service to increase the numbers of mothers quitting and the development of a targeted social marketing initiative;</li> <li>• The strengthening of Haringey's Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan;</li> <li>• Continued implementation of the Breastfeeding Framework including on-going training and support for midwives and health visitors.</li> </ul>	





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## Overview and Scrutiny Committee, December 1 2008

### 0 Questions to the Leader of the Council

**Part 1**

	<b>Question/Observation</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Legal Services	<p><b>From Councillor Egan</b></p> <p>1. What legal expertise does the Council have to buy in?            What is the financial cost of this?            What percentage is this in relation to the whole Legal Budget?</p>	<p>Legal Services buy in legal expertise in two main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Counsel advice and advocacy</li> <li>2. External solicitors (often commissioned directly by clients)</li> </ol> <p>In 2007/08 the spend on counsel was £781,000            In 2007/08 the spend on external solicitors was £400,000</p> <p>The main firms used were; Eversheds (BSF) Bird &amp; Bird, and Trowers and Hamlyn (mainly specialist contract advice)</p> <p>In 2007/08, 19% of all legal expenditure was on external expertise</p>
	<p>2. What legal services (if any) do we provide for Bodies outside the Council Umbrella? What remuneration does the Council receive for this?</p>	<p>Legal Provide services to three bodies who may be considered to be within the council umbrella, but who can choose not to use the Council's Legal Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homes for Haringey</li> <li>▪ Haringey Schools</li> <li>▪ Alexandra Palace</li> </ul> <p>Income from Legal charges for these bodies in 2007/08 was £986,000</p>
	<p><b>From Councillor Winskill</b></p> <p>3. What effects has the credit crunch and the</p>	<p>Income for 2008/09 up to 31 October is £250,275 less than previous</p>



	<p>substantial reduction in house sales had income from land searches?</p>	<p>year for the same period. Total number of searches in the same period have reduced from 4824 to 3513</p>
	<p>4. Please give figures for the total notional staff establishment for each team and the actual numbers employed by Haringey</p> <p>How many contract staff are employed and at what cost for 07/08, 08/09?</p> <p>What measures are being taken to recruit permanent staff?</p>	<p>Current staff numbers in post: 96            Local Land Charges: 4            Registration Service: 9            Corporate Legal Service: 83 – (of which 25 temporary staff)</p> <p>Spend on Temporary Staff 07/08 – £496,000            Spend on Temporary Staff 08/09 – £385,000 (until end of October 08)</p> <p>The relatively high level of agency staff in the service is due to the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff partly due to an all London shortage of lawyers in certain areas and due to the Haringey pay scales attached to the posts.</p> <p>Legal Services has carried out a strategic review which covered the areas of recruitment and retention. The implementation of the review will include a drive to recruit permanent staff in all areas.</p>
	<p>5. On page two mention is made of debt recovered: please tell us how much is currently outstanding in respect of Social Services and Property services (commercial rent arrears).</p>	<p>The total amount of debt referred to Legal Service by Social Services in the current financial year (including cases carried forward from last financial year) amounts to £1,772,907. Of this, as at 26 November 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £484,355 has been recovered</li> <li>▪ £168,102 is subject to instalment agreements/orders and is being recovered at the rate of £4,400 per month;</li> <li>▪ £137,661 has been recommended for write off;</li> <li>▪ £75,437 relates to 3 cases in which recovery action is suspended pending the outcome of a review of the financial assessment (means test) to determine liability</li> <li>▪ £907,352 is subject to current recovery action including defended</li> </ul>



		<p>legal proceedings.</p> <p>A further £84,000 is shortly to be recovered from the proceeds of sale of a debtor's property to realise the debt; a further £100,000 is also to be recovered in settlement of another debt claim.</p> <p>Current instructions on the recovery of Commercial Rent arrears as at 6/11/08 amount to c£726,266. Legal Services does not log amounts recovered.</p> <p>The measurement of recovery is complex for example its definition may include awards such as charging orders and may be provided by Corporate Property Services.</p>
	<p>6. Please tell us how much has been spent (directly, on consultants and permanent staff time) on the completion of investigations into the role of senior management at Alexandra Palace in relation to the licence granted to Firoka. What other costs are anticipated in this area for the current financial year and 2009/10?</p>	<p>It is estimated that £20,000 will be spent on this work in total this year. At this stage no costs are anticipated for 2009/10.</p>
	<p>7. What income has been received from HfH for support on the Decent Homes project?</p>	<p>Legal work carried out has been charged at c£65,000 for preparation of an application to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and advice relating to statutory leaseholder consultation.</p>
	<p>8. Please give further details on the anticipated increase in defended litigation involving leaseholders arising out of invoices for major works. How many cases are involved? Why has this increase occurred?</p>	<p>At this stage it is not possible to say how many cases are involved for the reasons which follow.</p> <p>The increase has not occurred. The Legal Service thinks that an increase may occur but is unable to say when it will happen and how large it will be or even if it will occur at all. The Legal Service understands that there will be a quadrupling in the amount of money spent by HfH on leaseholder properties over the five years of the Decent</p>



		<p>Homes programme, beginning in 2008/2009. Bills for £5,000 £10,000 and £15,000 or more are beginning to be sent out to leaseholders for major works being carried out by the HfH with Decent Homes funding.</p> <p>It should be noted that HfH has implemented a number of measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of litigation, for example, loans and extended payment periods.</p> <p>To date, approximately £16,400 has been charged to the Children's Service in relation to the Baby P case. This does not include Counsel's fees yet to be settled for attending the criminal trial regarding matters such as disclosure, reporting restrictions and related civil proceedings. Neither does it include any fees for legal work relating to advice about child protection issues before Baby P's death.</p> <p>To date, approximately £19,000 has been charged to the Council corporately for the Baby P case. These costs relate to legal support for the Council corporately in relation to the Baby P case and are entirely separate costs from those outlined for question 9.</p> <p>To date the total legal costs for the Council overall relating to the Baby P case amount to £35,400.</p> <p>There will be a report outlining the actions and recommendations of the value for money reviews to Overview &amp; Scrutiny on 12 January 2009</p> <p>I have discussed on many occasions with the Chief Executive, the Head of Communications and the Head of Benefits and Local Taxation the need for a high profile campaign to encourage people to claim benefits which they are entitled to. I have also met with the Chair of the Haringey</p>
	<p>9. Please tell us how much time and support has been given in support of Children's Services in support of the Baby P case. How much was spent on barristers preparing for and attending the Old Bailey trial?</p>	
	<p><b>From Councillor Aitken</b></p> <p>10. What has been the cost so far of Legal Advice to the Council on the Child P case?</p>	
	<p><b>From Councillor Winskill (continued)</b></p> <p>11. May we have sight of the value for money reviews of Communications, learning Disabilities and Building control. What actions/recommendations will follow the publication of these documents?</p> <p>12. What discussions has the Leader had with senior officers and colleagues to prepare Haringey to meet the needs of its residents who may be suffering the effects of the credit crunch?</p>	
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<p>Have there been any discussions with HMG about extra support from the most vulnerable people in the borough, particularly those experiencing fuel poverty?</p> <p>Has there been any discussions about an advertising campaign targeted at small businesses encouraging them to apply for relief on business rates?</p>	<p>Citizen's Advice Bureau (HCAB) to discuss how the Council can work better with HCAB to provide increased benefit take-up.</p> <p>What is important is for people who have a change in circumstances to immediately inform authorities so that they start claiming benefit immediately.</p> <p>My discussions have led to the Borough's Claim It Campaign which has been prominently advertised in Haringey People since September and advertising has appeared in prominent locations in the borough. The campaign is supported by HCAB, Age Concern and HAVCO.</p> <p>As part of the 'Claim it' Take Up campaign events have been held in the borough. Recently at a local library the Council interviewed over 450 people providing benefits advice and encouraging take up. The campaign was done in partnership with input from across Council services and also partners such as Age Concern and Haringey Carers Forum.</p> <p>Fuel poverty is likely to increase as a result of the credit crunch but has been an issue for some considerable time. We have been active since 2002 delivering insulation and heating schemes through a variety of schemes and funding routes. We are presently working sub regionally delivering insulation and heating measures through a contract which will start before Christmas. The sub region have made a substantial bid for 2009-2011 to continue to deliver these measures and the procurement process to appoint the new contractor will start soon and is for a 3 year contract with an extension of 2 years.</p> <p>It is expected that Haringey will receive in the region of £1million over the next two years to assist vulnerable clients in fuel poverty and</p>
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<p>additional funding to assist with other decent homes work within the private sector.</p> <p>In addition the Chancellor in the pre-budget report announced bringing forward £50m of investment and £100m of new investment on the Warm Front programme.</p> <p>I have discussed also with the Deputy Leader and Chief Executive what opportunities there are to support small businesses at this current time. The following activity is being undertaken:</p> <p>In respect of helping businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ A link to the Haringey website has been added to bills. This link informs of organisations that can help local businesses</li><li>▪ We are sending a mail shot to our small businesses in December, which advises on how to claim Small Business Rate Relief</li><li>▪ There will be advice printed in the Annual Billing booklet for 2009/2010</li><li>▪ All staff on the NNDR team have been told to direct struggling businesses to the advice agencies that can help</li><li>▪ We are now working with Regeneration to produce a further information leaflet with general advice for all business. This will be sent to every business in the borough.</li><li>▪ The Council will also have free parking in 8 council car parks across the borough at weekends in the run up to Christmas and the whole of Christmas week. This will be to help local shops and businesses attract customers.</li></ul> <p>We are also keeping a close eye on possible government changes to legislation. These will not become statute until next year, so any</p>		
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<p>PP&amp;C</p>	<p>13. Will the Leader tell us the names of consultants, individuals or others, paid or unpaid, that have been giving media advice to Haringey Officers, Councillors and others involved in the handling of the Baby P case. Will he tell us how they were selected and what the final estimated cost of their services will be.</p>	<p>changes will be addressed in the booklet (or at the appropriate time).</p> <p>The current number of cases where Small Business Rate Relief is awarded is 2,372. Our property database currently lists 6,899 hereditaments, many of which will have rateable values above £10,000 so will not qualify for the relief.</p> <p>Benefits and Local Taxation intend to issue a mail shot in December targeted at all those ratepayers who according to our records have not applied for the reduction but may qualify, this amounts to approximately 1,000 businesses. A copy of the application form is available on the website, together with some guidance notes.</p> <p>A second mail shot, developed in collaboration between Benefits and Local Taxation and Economic Regeneration, will be sent out in February with the rates demand outlining the support available for businesses located within the borough.</p> <p>Further to this the government has announced in the Pre Budget Report that all commercial empty properties with a rateable value below £15k will be exempt from business rates. In addition the 1p rise in small business corporation tax has been postponed.</p> <p>The cost of paid for media advice to the council from three sources included media training for key spokespeople. The total estimated final cost will be £19,000</p> <p>Contracts were awarded through Contract Standing Order Waiver of Contract Standing Order (CSO) 6.04 (requirement to tender) under CSO7 and approval for award of contact under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 11.02.</p> <p>The name(s) are provided in part 2.</p>
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**Haringey Council**

<p>Legal Services</p>	<p><b>From Councillor Newton:</b></p> <p>14. To reduce the risk of litigation and ensure transparency and ability to monitor value for money over major works will the Council provide leaseholders with full access to itemised "Specification of Works" so they can see exactly what works are planned to take place, what works are carried out and the cost breakdown?</p> <p>How are leaseholders able to see the "Specification of Works" and where can they view them?</p> <p>What information is currently provided in the "Specification of Works"?</p> <p>What recourse do leaseholders have where they are still waiting to see "Specification of Works" even though major works have already started?</p> <p>What information on major works is required to be given to leaseholders by law?</p>	<p>There is no legal requirement under the Service charges (Consultation Requirements) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the Regulations') to provide a specification to the leaseholders</p> <p>The Legal Service understands that HfH is providing leaseholders with additional information above and beyond the requirements of the Regulations, both before and after the works are carried out. Question relating to this should be addressed to the HfH</p> <p>See above</p> <p>See above</p> <p>Legally, none, but see the reply below.</p> <p>Schedule 3 of the Regulations requires the Council as landlord to "describe, in general terms, the works proposed". The Council is also required to give a reason for doing the works and a statement of the total amount of the estimated expenditure. Leaseholders then have 30 days beginning with the date of the notice to make observations in writing, and the Council has a further 21 days in which to respond in writing to any observations.</p>
<p>PPP&amp;C</p>	<p><b>From Councillor Alexander:</b></p> <p>15. When will the final chapter of the Borough profile be completed?</p>	<p>The final chapter on Community Safety of the Borough profile will be completed by the end of December 2008. Chapters already published</p>



**Haringey Council**

are: Our Changing Borough, Our Borough's Health & Well-Being, The Local Economy, Skills and Educational Attainment, Haringey's Environmental Sustainability, Customers and Citizenship		
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