



VENTNOR HEALTH VISITOR TEAM

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 55/19

8 JULY 2019

The purpose of this Report is to update Members on action taken since the discussion at the June Town Council meeting of the planned removal of the Ventnor Area Health Visitors Team from Ventnor to Sandown.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Following discussion of Report 47/19 to the Town Council meeting of 10 June Minute 70/19 unanimously agreed that *a letter composed by Councillor Jason Mack and the Clerk and agreed by the Mayor setting out these concerns be delivered to those responsible for the decision.*
 - b) The letter was agreed and mailed to the Chief Executive of the Island's NHS Trust, Maggie Oldham, on 17 June and is attached to this Report.
 - c) The letter was copied to John Metcalfe, Isle of Wight Council Chief Executive, Dr Mark Rawlinson, Locality Manager, South Wight Locality, Dave Stewart, Isle of Wight Council Leader, Paul Brading, Portfolio Holder, Children's Services, Councillor Gary Peace, County Councillor, Ventnor West and Councillor Graham Perks, County Councillor, Ventnor East
 - d) At the time of writing this Report (2 July) no response had been received by any of those identified in the previous paragraph apart from Councillor Gary Peace who in an email dated 22 June said *I wasn't aware of this. I fully support your response and will also follow up with similar sentiment.*
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2) ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST BOARD

- a) The Mayor offered to raise the matter further through a Public Question at the Board Meeting on the afternoon of 4 July; the Board asks for 48 hours' notice of Public Questions to ensure that a full response is possible at the meeting.
 - b) The Mayor's question, submitted by email on 1 July was:
Ventnor Town Council believes that the proposed move of the Ventnor Health Visitor Team to Sandown has serious implications for both the town and the team. The reasons for the proposed move seem vague and confused, with early indications stating financial savings for the move, whilst other indications highlight the fact that the move is for logistical reasons in order to create a centralised service. VTC would challenge the premise of both of those reasons. We have sought clarity on this but have yet to receive a response.
My question, therefore, is whether the Trust Board will agree not to implement any changes to the current arrangements for this vital service until after appropriate consultation with the Town Council about them?
 - c) The Mayor will report to Members at the meeting the outcome of his intervention.
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3) OTHER ACTIONS

- a) The Mayor has also offered to raise the matter by Public Question at both the meeting of the Full Council on 24 July and the Health and Wellbeing Board on 25 July.
 - b) A meeting for the Mayor, Councillor Jason Mack and me with Jennifer Edgington, the Trust's Head of Nursing and Quality – Community Division and Nicola Longson, its Deputy Director for Community Services on Monday 8 July at 10am.
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4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider the response to date and assess further options available to it to secure consultation on this proposal.



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL



1 Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ

Ms Maggie Oldham
St Mary's Hospital
Parkhurst Road
Newport
Isle of Wight P30 5TG

17 June 2019

Dear Ms Maggie Oldham

Ventnor Town Council is so concerned about the decision to move the town's Health Visitor Team to Sandown that it unanimously decided at its meeting on Monday 10 June to ask those responsible for the decision to revisit it.

The team of four has been based in a room at Salisbury Gardens since 1 December 2014 following repeated requests from its managers to provide this local base in the then recently refurbished building.

We understand that one of the drivers of the proposed move is to save the current £4,500 rent. This is clearly not a deliverable saving given the additional six miles each way travel to their place of work that would be required at 45pence per mile plus the lost face-to-face client time.

The Town Council's major concern is the inevitable reduction in the level of this crucial service for the town's young mothers and their children, exacerbated by Barnardo's reduction of services at the once excellent Children's Centre in the town to less than one day a week and a rumoured complete withdrawal from it when its lease ends in March next year. Upper Ventnor and the Town Centre Lower Super Output areas (LSOAs), home for half the town's population, are among the most deprived, not only on the Island but nationally too according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015.

On that Index's Children & Young People domain, Upper Ventnor is ranked at 1,455 out of the 32,844 total LSOA areas nationally, putting it in the most deprived 5%. Its rank on the Income Deprivation affecting Children domain is the 2,489th most deprived, well within the most deprived 10% nationally.

The evidence showing the importance of the early years' experience in addressing deprivation and increasing life chances is absolutely clear; which is precisely why the Town Council is requesting that this decision to move the town's Health Visitor team is reconsidered in consultation with us.

Yours sincerely

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

Stewart Blackmore
Mayor

Copies to:

John Metcalfe, Isle of Wight Council Chief Executive

Dr Mark Rawlinson, Locality Manager, South Wight Locality

Dave Stewart, Isle of Wight Council Leader

Paul Brading, Portfolio Holder, Children's Services

Gary Peace, County Councillor, Ventnor West

Graham Perks, County Councillor, Ventnor East