



VENTNOR AREA HEALTH VISITORS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 47/19

10 JUNE 2019

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider a response to the planned removal of the Ventnor Area Health Visitors Team from Ventnor to Sandown.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Health visitors are registered nurses/midwives who have additional training in community public health nursing. They provide a professional public health service enhancing health and reducing health inequalities through a proactive, universal service for all children 0-5 years (Institute of Health Visiting).
 - b) A team of four have long been based locally to serve Ventnor and its surrounding area; since 1 December 2014 they have been based in one of our rooms at Salisbury Gardens. Now they are being moved to Sandown by August.
 - c) The reason given is to save the £4,500 rent of their current base by relocating them to the already owned Sandown Barracks. The logic of that isn't clear given the costs of the additional travelling the team will then need to do to cover their Ventnor area caseloads and the additional time requirement of those journeys.
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2) IMPACT

- a) The loss of the local Health Visitor Team is all the more significant given the recent changes to the town's Albert Street Children's Centre.
 - b) It once had a thriving programme of weekly activities for children and their parents. Since its management changed from Spurgeon's to Barnardo's four years ago it has become a satellite of the Sandown Family Centre that serves the South Wight Locality. In that role it is now only used as a Children's Centre one day a week on Tuesdays.
 - c) These losses of locally delivered and accessible services are particularly worrying for the town's families with children. Upper Ventnor has 298 children aged 0-15 and Ventnor town has 234; both areas are in the poorest 20% nationally and Upper Ventnor ranks in the most deprived 10% nationally on the Income deprivation affecting children scale in the national Index of Deprivation 2015.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider how the Town Council should respond to the proposed relocation of the Ventnor Health Visitor Team.
