

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME – HEALTH IN SOUTHWARK

1. QUESTION FROM DAVID LINFOOT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

Could you please inform me if there are any plans for an outdoor gym in Spa Gardens as this would encourage the community to keep fit, lose weight and give teenagers a way to keep off the streets and also to keep healthy?

RESPONSE

There are currently no plans to install an outdoor gym in Bermondsey Spa Gardens. The desire for this was raised with the Green Flag judges when they came to judge the site, and their view was that it would be more appropriate to install some natural play equipment.

Outdoor gyms are a great way to encourage the community to keep healthy, which is why we have installed one in the refurbishment of Burgess Park.

In addition, we recently completed our plan to place outdoor gyms in the north of the borough, so that Geraldine Mary Harmsworth, Southwark Park and Durand's Wharf now benefit from new gyms.

We have no other current plans for outdoor gyms, but are always interested in hearing the views of the community on improvements to our parks and open spaces

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM DAVID LINFOOT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

A supplemental question was asked of the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling, however due to a technical fault the supplemental question was not recorded.

RESPONSE

I thank Mr Linfoot for his question and as we said in the written answer we have no plans at the moment to introduce an outdoor gym in Spa Gardens. He may or may not know that there is currently an outdoor gym near to Bermondsey Spa Gardens which is located approximately ten minutes walk away at Pottier Street on Haddon Hall Estate, and that gym can be used by people who do not live on the estate. At the moment we do not have any plans to introduce an outdoor gym on Spa Gardens; but we certainly are in favour of having outdoor gyms as many as possible in our borough and it does not mean to say that we will not look at it in the future.

2. QUESTION FROM KOLA ABIOLA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

How will Southwark Council ensure that in improving local mental health services, the professional resources of local cognitive behavioural therapists and other mental health practitioners are captured and well utilised?

RESPONSE

I understand, the question is referring to the proposed reconfiguration of psychological therapy services that South London and Maudsley NHS Trust are currently consulting on, which includes changes to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) services. This is an NHS service commissioned by Southwark Primary Care Trust rather than being a direct council responsibility. However, as the proposal potentially constitutes a substantial variation to local NHS services, the council has a formal role in scrutinising the proposals to help ensure the changes are properly consulted on and considered to be in the best interests of the local population. The council's health and adult social care scrutiny sub-committee is responsible for this scrutiny and this work is separate from the work of the cabinet. More information about it can be found on the council's website.

The new arrangements for local shadow health and wellbeing boards give us as a council other new opportunities to influence the work of the NHS. Indeed, one of our priorities for the coming year's work as a board will be coping skills, resilience and mental wellbeing. We fully anticipate, as part of this work, that we will be seeking the views of professionals and experts in the field.