

Question to Cabinet
Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on
3 February 2022

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Kim Snape	Respondent: County Councillor Peter Buckley
	<p>Item 13 - Lancashire Library and Museum Strategy 2022-2025</p> <p>Where do friends groups fit into your libraries strategy? It strikes me that they are able to apply for grants that LCC may not be able to apply for which if successful would then substantially enhance the library offer. For example the incredible work that Friends of Adlington Library have done in applying for grants for film equipment for the library amongst many other things.</p>	<p>Our library service is very committed to having Friends groups, supporting those groups and developing groups for libraries that don't yet have them. We realise how valuable Friends groups are and that the people that form Friends groups are members of our local communities. Working with, supporting and developing Friends groups for our libraries is regarded as part of our business as usual.</p> <p>Our commitment to Friends groups is reflected in the service having a post – Communities Engagement Manager. In the job description for that post working with Friends groups is stated strongly and clearly as a key part of the role of the post.</p> <p>Strategic Priority 2 of the Libraries Strategy 2022-25 focuses on Libraries first and ensuring that libraries are at the heart of our communities actively collaborating with partners for mutual benefit. We see Friends Groups a being one of these key community partners, as well as members of a Friends group being members of our communities</p> <p>Furthermore, we refer to Friends groups in the wider Cultural Services strategy which was approved at Full Council in October 2019. Objective 13 of this document is headed Encouraging the growth of constituted Friends groups across Libraries, Museums and Archives. We will be proactive in</p>

		engaging more individuals to establish and join Friends groups across the county.
2.	Questioner: County Councillor Erica Lewis	Respondent: County Councillor Graham Gooch
	<p>Item 8 - Adult Social Care - Provider Fees Uplift Report 2022/2023</p> <p>Given the challenges facing the social care sector in recruiting and retaining staff and the financial vulnerability of many providers, in addition to what is already in the report, could further information be given as to how these factors were considered and addressed in trying to address the loss of both providers and staff from the sector.</p>	<p>We have utilised their own cost data and the discussions we have had with them face to face on costs and pressures to determine what the uplifts to fees should be taking into consideration affordability for the Council.</p> <p>We have held engagement sessions with providers throughout the last 12 months and we have been monitoring and sharing our data with them in terms of where the biggest challenges lie within the care market from our own perspective. They have in turn shared with us details of where there are barriers to recruitment and retention of staff and of course fees we pay to them and how much they are paying their staff is only one element that affects their recruitment and retention. There are some issues around how we currently commission home care and contract for it that will be fed into our forthcoming re tendering of these services which may help in the near future but for contractual and legal reasons cannot be addressed immediately.</p> <p>We have used the information to direct higher proportions of government grant funding to the home care sector as an example. We have ensured that providers have the flexibility to use the grant funding to assist recruitment and retention as they see appropriate to their own circumstances too. We will continue to engage with the sector as we aim to meet the ambitions of the new government 'Fair cost of Care' funding due in 2022/23.</p>

		<p>LCC have proactively formed an ICS level group with commissioners from the two unitary authorities and Cumbria and the NHS so that a wider plan can be formed with regard to the care market including sharing fees information and looking at where we can collaborate on work to stabilise and strengthen the market including recruitment and retention. We are also actively working with north West ADASS to share their guidance and materials for their "Step into Care" campaign on care sector recruitment.</p>
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