

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

AGENDA ITEM 5

QUESTION 1

MR DAVID SANDBACH, Chairman of Westbury Parish Council, will ask the following question:

Is the plan to help brave former members of our armed forces under any threat as a result of the CCG disinvestment decision regarding services provided under the Enable initiative?

MRS KAREN CALDER, Portfolio Holder for Health has replied as follows:

Please note that Shropshire Council is responsible for the management of Enable as a service; funding for the service comes from a number of sources and other organisations. The Council is not responsible for, and has not been involved in, the proposed disinvestment decision made by the CCG in relation to its funding of Enable.

Enable's service to help veterans with mental ill health into employment is a 12 month pilot project funded (separately) by Walking with the Wounded. It is designed to test out whether Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is a method that is successful at helping veterans into employment.

IPS is an evidence based vocational approach which has been shown to be extremely successful at helping people with severe and enduring mental health into paid employment.

Enable was chosen by Walking with the Wounded as it has been very successful using this method and, as a result, is a national Centre of Excellence in IPS with both a regional and national reputation.

Whilst the funding for this project is "stand alone" i.e. funded by Walking with the Wounded, and is not directly dependant on CCG funding, if the CCG funding contribution to Enable as a whole is withdrawn it is likely that Enable will not be able to meet the basic service requirements as an IPS Centre of Excellence.

Enable currently has a pool of very experienced and trained IPS staff who it has been able to move across to work on the Veterans project. This pool of expertise will be at risk if the CCG funding is withdrawn. This may then impact on further funding decisions from Walking with the Wounded to continue the Veterans project.

It is currently hoped that the Veterans project will be continued for a further 12 months with the potential to be integrated with local mental health employment services.