



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

19 JANUARY 2024

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

19 JANUARY 2024

QUESTION No. 1 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

David Maynerd to ask the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board:

#### Regulation of Hairdressers

Why is it that Hairdressers are unregulated?

When, if hairdressers don't sterilize their equipment carefully after each use, dangerous scalp conditions can be passed on to the next customer. I have noticed over several years that my scalp seems to be sensitive and after a visit to the hairdresser I will nearly always get an itchy scalp, this turns to scabs forming on my scalp and when scratched cause small open wounds. These generally clear up in 6 to 8 weeks with daily use of Head and shoulders shampoo. But the cycle is repeated after my next haircut. Recently I discussed this with my hairdresser and he very kindly started cleaning and disinfecting all his tools before starting to cut my hair. This has drastically reduced the incidence of my problem. But a few months ago we were chatting I noticed that he had not remembered to clean all the his tools and after that visit almost immediately I had an itchy scalp and 3 or 4 bad sores developed. A few days ago I went back and mentioned that last visit and he carefully cleaned all his tools before starting and a few days later my scalp seems fine. I think most mens hairdressers just leave their combs in some disinfectant over night but this is not good enough. If a customer suffers from Dandruff, Psoriasis, eczema and many other hair problems they can easily pass this condition to the next customers through combs, electric cutters, scissors etc. not being sterilised before the next customer. Of course it may not be practical to soak all tools each time but they could be rinsed and sprayed each time ... it only takes a minute and or they can have two sets of combs etc one sterilising and one in use. As I understand it, talking to a new hairdresser in Brecon recently, a town I often visit, anyone can start a hairdressing business and there are no checks or qualifications asked for or made. If this is true, this is a dangerous health loophole which could easily be addressed.

**REPLY** by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor McEwan):

It is a requirement for hairdressers and barbers to register with Reading Borough Council's Environmental Health team who will monitor businesses to ensure that they achieve a standard of health and safety practice that minimises risk to their customers.

Hairdressers and Barbers must demonstrate compliance in the following two areas:

1. Maintain a clean and hygienic environment.
2. Decontaminate equipment appropriately.

The Hair and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) also sets standards for training and qualifications in the hair and beauty sector via the National Occupational Standards, these include hygiene but their adoption and implementation into local practice will vary. Hairdressers and barbers must also adhere to consumer protection legislation. They are subject to the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

To attain compliance with these regulations, hairdressers and barbers are expected to carry out risk assessments, ensure staff are adequately trained and have an up-to-date Health and Safety policy in place. The salon owner has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of staff and service users.

The council recognises these legal duties are important and will carry out reactive visits following a concern being raised or complaint being logged. Unfortunately, we are not able to conduct proactive visits due to a lack of resources. However, members of the public are invited to log their concerns with our consumer protection department by emailing [consumer.protection@reading.gov.uk](mailto:consumer.protection@reading.gov.uk)

It should also be noted that many hairdressers and barbers take the health aspect of their work seriously and there are several examples of excellent health promoting practice. For example, The Lions Barbers Collective which trains hairdressers and barbers to have connected conversations with their male clients to help prevent the risk of suicidal ideation and suicide amongst men.

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

19 JANUARY 2024

QUESTION No. 2 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

Tom Lake to ask the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board:

#### Marmot Town

Recent publicity regarding Coventry's advances in health equality have pointed to the possibility of becoming a "Marmot Town" through collaboration with the Institute of Health Inequality led by Sir Michael Marmot at University College London. Will the board consider this approach to tackling health inequality?

**REPLY** by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor McEwan):

The Institute of Health Equity at University College London facilitates the Marmot Places scheme. This builds upon earlier formats and strategic public health initiatives such as Healthy Cities. There are now over 40 local authorities in England and Wales who have become a network of The Marmot Places. These include Coventry, Greater Manchester and others where programmes of work have begun that seek to implement the 6 policy objectives recommended first by the Marmot Review in 2010 and in milestone reports since then. These have become 'marmot principles', evidence-based action that will reduce the social gradient in health:

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

They recognise that the social economic determinants of health are beyond the health service and these are the prevention measures which will lead to the best and healthiest outcomes for everyone. The overarching approach to delivery recommended across all these policy areas is proportionate universalism, the idea that services should be provided universally but with a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage.

The prospect of becoming a Marmot Borough has been discussed amongst Officers and at Lead Councillor Briefings. In Reading we recognise that health is created outside of the healthcare system. We support these principles and know that there is much good practice in Reading Borough Council and amongst our system partners in the integrated care system and the local voluntary community sector that already aligns with these principles.

The way forward for us here in Reading is to receive the completion of the current Director of Public Health Annual Report which is expected in March 2024. This statutory document will be the first since 2021. It will be supported by evidence drawn from our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

and will provide strategic guidance about our local priorities for protecting and improving health in Reading.

This strategic guidance will enable us to take an informed view as to whether we will be recommending to the Board the aspiration to become a Marmot Borough and the benefits to Reading's residents.

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

**19 JANUARY 2024**

QUESTION No. 3 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

Tom Lake to ask the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board:

Commissioning Decisions

In the current structure of an Integrated Care Board with place level structures it is unclear where commissioning decisions are taken and how they are reported to the public.

Will the board review accountability and oversight in our integrated care system so as to clarify where change is needed to bring commissioning decisions clearly to the public view?

**REPLY** by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor McEwan):

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board remains the NHS commissioning body, and has a duty to consult with the local authority and the public on any commissioning decisions that would have a substantial impact on services.

The Health and Wellbeing Board, along with the ACE Committee, continues to play an important role in co-development and scrutiny of commissioning decisions. Our jointly developed Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out our local guiding priorities. We will continue to review progress of delivery against this Strategy regardless of whether the development work happens at a 'Place' level or as part of the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System.

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