

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2020

QUESTION 1 in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor Ballsdon to ask the Chair of the Committee:

Recruitment and Retention of Care Staff after Brexit

Given that the country will be leaving the European Union on 31 January, what plans does the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care have to ensure the council is able to recruit and retain care staff thereafter?

REPLY by the Chair of the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee:

I invite Councillor Jones, the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by Councillor Jones, Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care:

While it is true to say that the UK will be leaving the EU on 31 January it will still be a long way from getting Brexit done.

The further negotiations during the transition period until the end of this year have yet to begin so there remains great uncertainty in the social care sector as in other parts of the economy.

Of course, during the next eleven months the UK remains in the customs bloc, single market and continues to make budget payments to the EU.

However, the possibility remains for a no deal Brexit at the end of the year and fears of an erosion of confidence, trust and uncertainty about the future remains a real factor in the decision making of social care employers and the large number of migrant workers on which the sector currently relies.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation as the negotiations with the EU unfolds.