

Meeting of the Council

23 April 2015

Written Questions from Councillors

Agenda Item No. 7

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, Councillor Stockdale has submitted the following question which he wishes to ask of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Smith:

“The transfer of responsibility for Council Tax Support to collecting authorities has resulted nationally in great pressure on the most vulnerable families. Visits from bailiffs, confiscation of furniture, the stress on parents facing court proceedings and the difficulty of keeping up payments is, according to the Children’s Society, having a seriously damaging effect on children and teenagers moving into independent living after being in care.

What steps does Lewes District Council take to avoid damaging children when it goes about its debt collection business? How many council tax payers in receipt of Council Tax Support has it threatened with a demand for the year’s outstanding tax when they are a few days late with an instalment? How many has it taken to court? How many have been visited by bailiffs?”