

# Public Document Pack

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12 October 2023

Dear Member,

## **County Council - Friday, 13 October 2023**

Please find enclosed the following documents for consideration at the meeting of the County Council on Friday, 13 October 2023 which have been issued since the agenda was published.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>Members' Interests</b> (Pages 3 - 4)
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List of declared interests.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Appointments</b> (Pages 5 - 6)
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Nomination.

<b>10.</b>	<b>Question Time</b> (Pages 7 - 14)
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Supplementary Question Time report and written questions.

<b>11(a)</b>	<b>Motion on impact of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone on West Sussex</b> (Pages 15 - 20)
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Briefing note and proposed amendment by Cllr Oxlade.

<b>11(b)</b>	<b>Motion on Support for Care Leavers</b> (Pages 21 - 26)
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Briefing note, motion revised wording and proposed amendment by Cllr Oxlade.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

**To all members of the County Council**

**County Council 13 October 2023****Agenda Item 2****Declaration of Members' Interests**

Members have declared interests as shown, in the paragraphs specified. Unless otherwise indicated, all the interests are personal but not prejudicial. "DC" = District Council, "BC" = Borough Council, "TC" = Town Council and "PC" = Parish Council.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Cllr Ali	10 – Question Time	Member of Crawley BC
Cllr Ali	11(a) – Notice of Motion on ULEZ	Member of Crawley BC
Cllr Atkins	8 – Armed Forces Covenant	Member of and Armed Forces Champion for Worthing BC
Cllr Atkins	10 – Question Time	Paragraph on Beach Project as Member of Worthing BC
Cllr Burrett	10 – Question Time	Paragraph relating to the audit by external auditors of the Pension Fund accounts, as a deferred member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Condie	10 – Question Time	Member of Burgess Hill TC
Cllr Condie	11(a) – Notice of Motion on ULEZ	Member of Burgess Hill TC
Cllr Cooper	10 – Question Time	Member of Arun DC
Cllr Lanzer	11(a) – Notice of Motion on ULEZ	Member of Crawley BC
Cllr Waight	10 – Question Time	Member of Worthing BC

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**County Council – 13 October 2023****Item No. 4****Committee Appointments**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Change</b>
Member Development Group	Cllr Oppler to fill Lib Dem vacancy

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## **Cabinet Report: Delivering Our Council Plan 2021-25**

This report sets out the key strategic decisions, policy and programme initiatives, consultations, government announcements and key events within each Cabinet portfolio area to deliver our strategic priorities.

### **Environment and Climate Change (and Deputy Leader) – Deborah Urquhart**

- The County Council is working with district and borough councils this winter to promote Home Upgrade Grants (HUG2) worth thousands of pounds to residents through the [Warmer Homes programme](#). The funding is aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing costs for people living in homes that are not heated by mains gas (i.e. they use electricity, oil or LPG) and have a low Energy Performance Certificate rating. Residents must also have an annual household income under £31,000 or receive a means-tested benefit to qualify. The scheme will be targeting areas in the county which have the greatest concentration of off-gas properties. West Sussex is part of a local authority consortium (awarded more than £41m) which is led by Portsmouth City Council.

**Contact Officer:** Helen Kenny, Head of Democratic Services, 033 022 22532, [helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk)

### **Background papers**

None

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## West Sussex County Council – Written Questions

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**13 October 2023**

- 1. Written question from Cllr Cornell for reply by Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills**

### Question

West Sussex is one of 55 local authorities signed up to the Government's 'Delivering Better Value' contract with Newton Europe, which includes the delivery against target of a 20% reduction in Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued. The Council's current situation is that it is achieving only 1% of EHCP assessments within the statutory timeframe. EHCP applications on the waiting list are assessed by a professional Educational Psychologist. Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- (a) How this Newton Europe reduction target will be achieved, is it the right priority and, if achieved, how will it help overall to improve our support to this vulnerable group?
- (b) That in delivering the target, there will be no 'moving of goal posts' or 'watering down' of needs assessments; and
- (c) That the current criteria for awarding an EHCP, and the professional judgement of the Educational Psychologist will both be fully respected and maintained.

### Answer

- (a) Delivering Better Value (DBV) is a programme working to identify and implement local and national opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It is delivered by Newton Europe who were commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) and looks at how savings can be made by improving outcomes in terms of children accessing the right support at the right time.

The targets identified for West Sussex focused on the three areas below:

- Increasing Inclusion in Mainstream Settings
- Reducing Reliance on the Independent Sector
- Enabling a Stronger Multi-Disciplinary Response

There is no target to reduce EHCPs by 20%

- (b) Any reduction in requests for EHCPs will come from earlier effective intervention and support enabling children to access learning and make progress without an EHCP. Any children requiring the additional support required through an EHCP will continue to be assessed in the usual way.
- (c) The current criteria for issuing an EHCP is defined within the SEND Code of Practice and the advice from an Educational Psychologist is a statutory requirement.

**2. Written question from Cllr Joy for reply by Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills**

**Question**

My question regards Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). I would like to pose a question to the County Council Cabinet. On the first day of term, West Sussex County Council sent out a message indicating that no schools in the county had any RAAC-related issues, even though a school in Horsham had been prominently mentioned in the press. It is worth noting that this particular school was originally a local authority school when it was constructed but has since become an academy. It appears that there may have been some reliance on technicalities in their response.

Currently, there seems to be a heightened sense of concern, as evidenced by the numerous surveys being conducted. Therefore, I would like to pose a straightforward and inquisitive question: How many schools in West Sussex can provide concrete evidence that they are genuinely RAAC-free?

**Answer**

There are no records indicating RAAC in any County Council maintained schools; however building records did not always detail the construction methods used. There are 114 maintained schools that have parts of the site that were constructed or modified during the period that RAAC was in use as a building material. Visual inspections were required at all of these schools, using the Department for Education (DfE) guidelines for RAAC identification. As a consequence of these inspections, one school did identify material that looked very much like RAAC but, after detailed survey investigation, has proved not to be. A further four schools have subsequently identified areas within the school that they have flagged as potential RAAC and detailed investigations are being arranged.

However, the County Council is aware that visual inspections alone cannot always entirely eliminate the possibility of RAAC being present. This is because there will be occasions where the structure has been obscured by panelling for example or requires void areas to be accessed and in some circumstances asbestos management is needed. To this end a programme of comprehensive building surveys by RAAC experienced professionals has been commissioned for all of the schools potentially containing the material.

The only school in West Sussex that has had RAAC positively identified remains Greenway Junior School near Horsham which is an academy. The Academy Trust is working with the DfE to resolve the issue. In the meantime the school remains open having reconfigured the teaching arrangements to avoid the area of concern.

**3. Written question from Cllr O'Kelly for reply by Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills**

**Question**

Current contract arrangements for primary school meals are due to run until July 2026. The provision is based on the steamplicity model with meals prepared off-site and micro-steamed on-site.

Can the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Advise whether he is aware of an alternative to the Steamplicity system that could provide the scale of school meals required without full kitchen facilities in schools?
- (b) Advise whether any action is yet underway to explore alternative catering options ahead of July 2026?
- (c) Confirm the level of capital investment that would be required to deliver what would be required for an alternative to the Steamplicity.
- (d) Advise if a school is unhappy with the current arrangements there is provision for them to exit the contract?
- (e) Provide a summary of satisfaction levels based on the annual surveys for the duration of the contract arrangements.

**Answer**

- (a) Yes. There was a full market consultation undertaken in 2015/16 prior to the school meal contract procurement and at that time several potential alternatives presented and were explored by officers as part of the market consultation process. As is standard with a contract of this size, alternative models will be explored with potential Service Providers as part of the preparation for tendering for replacement school meal contracts.
- (b) Officers will commence market scoping in 2024/25, this will include stakeholder and Provider engagement.
- (c) Unknown as it would depend on what alternative models were presented. Full feasibility projects would need to be undertaken on each school currently operating a Steamplicity service, circa 190 schools. Not all these schools are maintained by the County Council.
- (d) Yes, there is provision for early contract exit, the conditions for this are set out in the annual Service Level Agreement that schools enter in to with the County Council.
- (e) The Service Provider carries out annual customer satisfaction surveys. These are constantly reviewed and improvements in the service applied, according to the feedback received.

**4. Written question from Cllr Smith for reply by Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills**

**Question**

Can you please provide the following data in relation to all children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) in full time educational placements, both as a percentage and an actual number, broken down by maintained, non-maintained, special, mainstream, academies, free schools or independent schools?

- (a) Children in full time school placements
- (b) Children currently on reduced timetables

- (c) Children currently receiving full time (Education Other Than At School) EOTAS support, including in-person tutoring or virtual support?
- (d) Children currently receiving part time or reduced EOTAS support?
- (e) What is the percentage of all children, and how many children in total with an EHCP are currently on waiting lists for a school placement? This includes children whose current placement is no longer meeting their needs, children who have been excluded from school and children missing education altogether as they are off role due to being de-registered?

**Answer**

- (a) We know which children are on roll in which type of provision at present; however, data on full-time, and part-time arrangements is not currently held. Mainstream covers providers of universal services who accommodate all needs within their setting.
  - 2,436 (35%) mainstream (including maintained, academies, free schools, and independents)
  - 2,807 (41%) Special or alternative provision
  - 1,389 (20%) Nursery or FE college (pre and post school age)
  - 278 (4%) other, such as apprenticeship, EOTAS, Elective Home Education, awaiting provision
- (b) This is not currently captured in a way that can be reported upon. A new working group has been established to explore future ways of working more closely with schools to communicate when changes to a child's full-time attendance in education is altered. This group is called Not in Receipt of Fulltime Education (NIRFE) and will include all children across the county, not SEND alone.
- (c) As at the start of September there were 104 children with EHCPs aged 0 to 25 that were recorded as EOTAS. This is 1.5% of all children with EHCPs for which West Sussex are responsible for. 60 of the 104 that are EOTAS are Elected Home Educated (0.9% of all children with EHCPs).

For children of compulsory school age (4 to 16 or Year R to 11) 71 children (1.3%) are recorded as EOTAS. 51 of these are Electively Home Educated (0.9%).
- (d) Any EOTAS provision for a child is their full-time provision in that it is their only provision. This may not be 'full-time' in the traditional sense of full-time education (i.e. 25 hours per week), but it is their only provision and what is deemed as appropriate for that child. Any child that is on a school roll would not be classed as EOTAS.
- (e) 61 (0.88%) of children with EHCPs are currently recorded with a SEN placement of Awaiting Provision/Awaiting Provision – in an education setting or another setting (age 5 to 15)/Awaiting Provision – not in education setting awaiting placement (age 5 to 15)/Awaiting Provision (16 or over).

Four children with EHCPs have been permanently excluded, however they are none of those shown as awaiting provision.

**5. Written question from Cllr Joy for reply by Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue**

**Question**

How is West Sussex County Council supporting Ukrainians in their efforts to secure private rental accommodation? A staff member attempting to transition into private rental housing has encountered obstacles, with letting agents unwilling to consider them as tenants.

Although it required the involvement of two English-speaking staff members to uncover this information, it appears that the County Council is aware of the issue and willing to intervene with landlords.

How are they addressing this situation to ensure that individuals who wish to avoid becoming a burden are not trapped within the system?

**Answer**

In response to the launch of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, the County Council has established a Ukraine Support Team to deliver the practical support requirements placed on local authorities as set out in the national guidance. This support includes assisting guests following the end of their hosting arrangements to find suitable accommodation and assistance with independent living.

The Ukraine Support Team has staff dedicated to delivering the locally designed Accommodation Pathway Scheme offering end-to-end assistance from initial thoughts of living independently through to the point of moving into a property. This approach was designed to support Ukrainians wishing to live independently following the end of their hosted placement with a Sponsor or where private rented arrangements best suit their specific individual or family circumstances.

Staff working within the Accommodation Pathway Scheme (APS) proactively engage with Lettings Agents and Property Owners to increase understanding of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, providing clarity on rights/status and entitlement under 'right to rent' as well as assisting with any practicalities regarding translation/interpretation. The scheme is widely promoted to guests, but it is acknowledged that many individuals/families are keen to be entirely independent opting to engage directly with Letting Agents and Property Owners but when faced with unfamiliar processes or unexpected obstacles may then reach out for assistance.

Engagement with individuals/families is on a 1:2:1 basis to tailor an appropriate package of support following an affordability assessment to ensure that any tenancy can be independently sustained for the duration. Support offered includes; assistance with the search for properties, engagement with Letting Agents and Property Owners to assist with the practical elements of viewing property and the subsequent steps for completion of a tenancy agreement and move-in. Circumstances will vary and a tailored package of support could include financial assistance with an initial security deposit (to take property off the market), rent deposit and/or a rent guarantee.

So far this year 66 individuals/families have moved into independently rented accommodation with support provided by the Accommodation Pathway Scheme with a further 130 individuals/families currently engaged in the process.

Support extends to ensure a smooth transition into the privately rented property with the Homes for Ukraine Team able to assist in the navigation of processes including help setting up council tax and utility accounts, and practical advice for matters such as recycling.

Once guests have settled into their independent accommodation, they are still able to access the wider support offer included under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme regarding access to language training, employment support etc.

The housing market in West Sussex is one of the most challenging in the Southeast with all statutory agencies struggling to obtain a regular supply of private rented accommodation despite offering incentives and support for landlords. The package of rent guarantees, rent and security deposits has proved a necessary measure to provide Landlords operating in a highly competitive marketplace with the assurance needed to support our guests.

In all cases officers seek to find suitable and appropriate accommodation, irrespective of whether the guest is a WSCC staff member or otherwise. The circumstances of each case remain confidential, but all cases are regularly reviewed whilst actively seeking rental accommodation and contact maintained with those who have successfully moved into independent accommodation.

It must be noted that irrespective of the support described above, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme remains a programme which primarily matches guests to local hosts and most hosted guests remain in their host arrangements for more than a year.

## County Council – 13 October 2023

### Item 11(a) - Notice of Motion on impact of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone on West Sussex from Cllr Burrett

#### Briefing Note

#### Scope of ULEZ expansion

The London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was introduced to Central London in April 2019, expanded to inner London in October 2021 and expanded to include the Greater London from the end of August 2023. The expansion to Greater London follows consultation during summer 2022.

#### Vehicle compliance levels, charges and exemptions

Non-compliant vehicles will be subject to a daily charge of £12.50, which will apply to all pre-Euro 4 standards petrol vehicles registered before January 2006, and all pre-Euro 6 diesel vehicles registered before September 2015. Specific grace periods are planned to support disabled people, including those on disability benefits and those with wheelchair accessible vehicles until October 2027.

#### Forecast impacts on air quality

- The expansion is forecast to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from cars and vans in outer London by 10 and 7 percent respectively, and reducing PM2.5 car exhaust emissions in outer London by nearly 16 per cent ([House of Commons Library Briefing, PDF, 453KB](#)).
- The reductions in concentrations mean there is relatively little change in the number of people living in areas exceeding the current NO<sub>2</sub> limit value of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> (about 2,500 fewer people which is less than 0.5 per cent of the population) because this is largely unaffected in areas where it is exceeded in central and inner London (where ULEZ already operates).
- It is estimated that over 20,000 additional London residents could live in areas meeting the World Health Organisation (WHO) interim target 2 of 30µg/m<sup>3</sup> NO<sub>2</sub> due to the scheme, while over 300,000 additional residents could live in areas that meet the tighter WHO interim target 3 of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### Scrappage scheme eligibility

A £110m scrappage scheme started in January 2023 for low income and disabled Londoners (£1k for a motorbike, £2k for a car, £5k for a wheelchair accessible vehicle or partial bus and tram pass payment). Eligible charities (e.g. community transport) and micro-businesses can receive grants for scrapping vehicles (£5 for a van, £7k for a minibus) or retrofitting to ULEZ standards. This scheme only applies in Greater London.

#### Impact assessment – vehicle compliance, impacts on low-incomes, non-London communities, daily charge periods, and dispersal impacts

Transport for London (TfL) have forecast that 95% of cars, and 91% of vans are expected to be compliant by the end of 2023 [[Link to Mayoral decision - Appendix 2 – see response to ref B1](#)].

TfL state that, by August 2023, compliant petrol vehicles will have been available for 18 years, and that, given the age of vehicles and size of the market, they expect compliant vehicle options to be available at a relatively low cost. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref B2](#)]

The consultation raised concerns about the charging period from midnight to midnight, meaning that someone would need to pay £25 for a trip into London before midnight, if they leave after midnight. TfL confirm this as correct but state that another £12.50 is not payable if they were to enter London again later that day. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref A20](#)].

### **Impact beyond London**

TfL identified amongst the scheme impacts: “Short-to-medium term minor negative community severance impacts for people living in communities adjacent to the London-wide ULEZ boundary who are required to travel into outer London by non-compliant vehicle to access employment, services and facilities”. [[Link to Mayoral decision – see 4.2.1](#)]

Consultation comments have highlighted concerns that the ULEZ expansion will push congestion and pollution outside the zone and make surrounding areas worse. TfL have responded that they have modelled the pollution and transport impacts of the proposals on the non-Greater London area within the M25. They expect pollutant levels to also fall in this area, and they expect negligible changes in traffic flows outside the proposed expanded ULEZ. They have also stated that they did not previously observe increased pollution on boundary roads following the introduction of the Central London ULEZ in 2019, or its expansion in inner London in 2021. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref B10](#)].

### **Scrappage scheme eligibility**

Adjacent authorities including Surrey County Council have requested that residents outside Greater London be included in the scrappage scheme. TfL have responded that they have called for a national scrappage scheme, to those outside of London, and state that government funding has been provided covering other cities including Birmingham, Manchester and Portsmouth. They also note that, with a finite amount of funding available, the scrappage scheme will be most effective when funds are targeted at those who will be disproportionately impacted and less able to avoid the charge without mitigation or appropriate support. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref E7 and section 5.6.5](#)]

### **Judicial review**

A challenge to the proposals brought forward by four London boroughs (Bexley, Bromley, Harrow and Hillingdon) and Surrey County Council failed on all three grounds ([Hillingdon -v- Mayor of London judgment \(PDF, 295KB\)](#)).

### **Issues concerning scheme implementation**

- There has been no published assessment of the impacts on residents and businesses outside Greater London in terms of the volume or types of people likely to be impacted.



- There appears to be no specific explanation or detailed assessment provided by TfL of options for a 'buffer zone' approach to scrappage scheme for those affected in adjacent areas outside Greater London.
- There is no explanation by TfL as to why a charging period cannot apply over a movable 24-hour period to avoid a double charge for travel in/out of London before and after midnight.
- No detailed modelling information appears to have been published to support the summary response claiming negligible changes in traffic flows and emission reductions in areas outside the expanded ULEZ area.

### **Response to Consultation**

West Sussex County Council did not formally respond to the consultation that TfL undertook in 2022. However, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport wrote to the Mayor of London in July 2023 setting out the issues stated above.

### **Lee Harris**

Director of Place Services

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## County Council 13 October 2023

### Item 11(a) - Notice of Motion on ULEZ impact on West Sussex from Cllr Burrett

#### Amendment from Cllr Oxlade

This Council values economic growth, and supporting our communities and small businesses in all their endeavours to grow.

This Council values the aspirations of the vulnerable in our communities to thrive, and places great store in its commitment to support them wherever it can.

This Council therefore ~~deplores~~ **notes** the action taken recently by the Mayor of London to extend the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone without regard to its adverse impact on the communities and small businesses of this county.

In particular it notes that:

- The London Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was extended by the Mayor of London on 29 August 2023 to cover all London Boroughs **and the aims of the ULEZ are to improve air quality, reduce pollution and improve health.**
- Many small businesses and traders rely on travel, especially from communities in the north of the county, into parts of London now covered by ULEZ.
- Many West Sussex residents (**including an estimated 6% of Crawley residents**) have a need to travel by car to outer London Boroughs for a variety of reasons, including work and specialist hospital appointments.
- Residents on lower incomes are more likely to own older vehicles and to be unable to afford to replace them.

This Council is concerned that:

- (1) No assessment has been produced by Transport for London of the volume of people living outside Greater London who are likely to be impacted by the ULEZ expansion.
- (2) People directly affected but living in West Sussex will not benefit from the mitigation package, and have no access to the diesel scrappage scheme for those on low incomes.
- (3) There will be a clear disproportionate impact on West Sussex small businesses, traders, and residents on low incomes who need to travel into Greater London, particularly at a time when cost-of-living pressures are already having an effect on them.
- (4) The ULEZ expansion could push congestion out of Greater London, making air quality worse in surrounding areas, including West Sussex.

In view of the above concerns, this Council resolves to ~~ask the Cabinet to support the position taken by Surrey County Council and other affected local authorities in maintaining opposition to the ULEZ expansion,~~ and asks the Leader to write to the Mayor of London, ~~in the strongest terms,~~ to ask him to reconsider his decision to expand the ULEZ zone in the light of the **potential** serious detrimental effects the expansion is now having on residents and businesses across the South East, including those in West Sussex, and especially those on low incomes, ***until modelling has been produced by TFL to evidence the anticipated scheme impacts on traffic flows, emissions and pollution levels outside Greater London.***

## County Council – 13 October 2023

### Item 11(b) - Notice of Motion on Support for Care Leavers from Cllr Linehan

#### Briefing Note

##### Background

The Care Leavers service supports our young people as they move towards independence. The service currently cares and supports 594 young people with an allocated Personal Advisor (PA) and a further 78 with other extended support. In 2018 statutory guidance extended PA support to all care leavers up to age 25 and not only, as previously, if they were engaged in education or training.

The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2023, included a paper on ['Leaving Care in West Sussex \(PDF, 213KB\)'](#) in direct response to the comments from the County Council's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) by Ofsted in March 2023 about meeting the needs of our care leavers.

##### Corporate Parenting

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced corporate parenting principles to which local authorities must have regard. These include the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing; to encourage them to express their views and to take those views into account; to help them gain access to and make the best use of services of the local authority and relevant partners; to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for them; to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and in education or work, and to prepare them for adulthood and independence.

As corporate parents the County Council's aim is to make sure that our children get the same opportunities, in education, employment and training, and in life generally, as other young people are not discriminated against, and that they have every opportunity to live fulfilling and successful lives without barriers.

##### National Context

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care led by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 had a recommendation that:

"Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" and "New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations."

Many care leavers face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perception of care experience is that these children are damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made about them. This discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit but can also be implicit and evidenced in the way that care leavers and care experience is discussed in schools,

workplaces, and the media. This can lead to care leavers being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have families of their own. The Office for National Statistics and various sector led organisations track and monitor various data regarding children we care for and care leavers, below are some headlines:

**All Children (England):**

- This year, around 36,000 children and young people will enter the care system: That's 100 children every day
- There are around 103,000 children cared for away from home
- Nearly 70,000 children live with over 55,000 fostering households
- There are currently 1,990 children waiting for adoption in England
- Global majority children (i.e. mainly non-white) are disproportionately represented in our care system. Global majority children make up 5% of the general population but 7% of in care and care leavers
- Global majority children are less likely to go on to be adopted and wait longer to find their adoptive family

**Care leavers and care experienced young people (England):**

- Over 10,000 young people in England leave the care system every year on their 18th birthday
- Care leavers make up 25% of the homeless population
- Almost 25% of the adult prison population have previously been in care, and nearly 50% of under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have spent time in care
- 7% of care leavers aged 17 years; 4% of care leavers aged 18 years and 6% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 years are in accommodation considered to be unsuitable
- 41% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 years are not in education, employment, or training, compared to 12% of all 19 to 21 year olds
- 13% of care leavers enter higher education by their 19th birthday, compared to 45% of the wider population
- Care-experienced applicants are 179% more likely to apply for health and social care than non-care-experienced students, and 50% more likely to apply for nursing and midwifery

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics. Fifty-four local authorities have taken the step to recognise care experience as a protected characteristic.

**Lucy Butler**

Director of Children, Young People and Learning

## County Council - 13 October 2023

### Item 11(b) - Notice of Motion on Support for Care Leavers by Cllr Linehan – revised wording

The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care headed by Josh **MacAlister** published in May 2022 had a final report and recommendations that included:

“Government should make care experience a protected characteristic” and “New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations.”

The Care Leavers service in West Sussex supports our young people to grow and develop into young adults successfully as they move towards independence and operates under a clear legislative framework provided by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

As corporate parents to the children and young people in our care, and care leavers, we in West Sussex take those responsibilities extremely seriously, as any good parents should.

But as West Sussex county councillors, we should go further and support the aspirations of Care Leavers, making sure that no Care Leaver is discriminated against, and that they have every opportunity to live fulfilling and successful lives without barriers.

This Council therefore recognises:

- That care leavers and those children who have been cared for are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- That councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration with them and all our local partnerships.
- That any future decision with respect to services and policies by the County Council assessed through Equality Impact Assessments should also consider the likely impact on people with care experience.
- To formally call upon all other bodies and partners, locally and pan-Sussex to treat care experience in the same way as they do a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the Council to continue to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of Care Leavers when developing new policies based on their views.

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader and Cabinet to ensure the Council treats care experience as if it were a protected characteristic, to provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services, and policy makers to put in place policies and programmes which promote better outcomes for care experienced young people. ***The Council also calls on the Leader and Cabinet to inform West Sussex MPs and the Department of Education of the action taken.***

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**County Council 13 October 2023**

**Item 11(b) - Notice of Motion on Support for Care Leavers by  
Cllr Linehan**

**Amendment from Cllr Oxlade**

The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care headed by Josh MacAlister published in May 2022 had a final report and recommendations that included:

“Government should make care experience a protected characteristic” and “New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations.”

The Care Leavers service in West Sussex supports our young people to grow and develop into young adults successfully as they move towards independence and operates under a clear legislative framework provided by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

As corporate parents to the children and young people in our care, and care leavers, we in West Sussex take those responsibilities extremely seriously, as any good parents should.

But as West Sussex county councillors, we should go further and support the aspirations of Care Leavers, making sure that no Care Leaver is discriminated against, and that they have every opportunity to live fulfilling and successful lives without barriers.

This Council therefore recognises:

- That care leavers and those children who have been cared for are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- That councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration with them and all our local partnerships.
- That any future decision with respect to services and policies by the County Council assessed through Equality Impact Assessments should also consider the likely impact on people with care experience.
- To formally call upon all other bodies and partners, locally and pan-Sussex to treat care experience in the same way as they do a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the Council to continue to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of Care Leavers when developing new policies based on their views.

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader and Cabinet to:

- (1) Ensure the Council treats care experience as if it were a protected characteristic, to provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services, and policy makers to put in place policies and programmes which promote better outcomes for care experienced young people. The**

Council also calls on the Leader and Cabinet to inform West Sussex MPs and the Department of Education of the action taken; **and**

- (2) Lobby the Government to bring about the change in legislation recommended by the MacAlister report.**