

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 1

Make Care-Experience a Protected Characteristic

Councillor Bell (22 May 2023)

- “1. That this Council notes:
 - (a) that care experienced people face significant barriers and challenges that impact them throughout their lives, including discrimination, and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment, and the criminal justice system;
 - (b) that despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
 - (c) that as corporate parents we have a special responsibility for providing the best possible care and ensure they get the support they need to live the happiest and healthiest life as possible so they can reach their full potential;
 - (d) the positive work of the City Council’s Corporate Parenting Panel in improving the lives and experiences of our care-experienced children and young people through lived experiences, working in partnership to embed a corporate parenting culture within Milton Keynes; and
 - (e) recommendations of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care by Josh McCallister (May 2022) including:
 - ‘Government should make care experience a protected characteristic’
 - ‘new legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations’.
2. That this Council believes that:
 - (a) the children and young people of Milton Keynes deserve the best start in life;
 - (b) the voices, needs, priorities, and rights of children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do;
 - (c) care experienced people are a disadvantaged group who face challenges and discrimination and that Milton Keynes has a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision making;

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- (d) Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society; and
 - (e) MKCC must continue to ensure the support we provide to our care-experienced children and young people is of the same quality we would expect for our own birth children.
3. That this Council believes that it should proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their lives and therefore resolves to ask the executive to consider and implement the following:
- (a) that this Council will treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic;
 - (b) that in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the City Council include care experience in the publication and review of the Equality Policy (2021) relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;
 - (c) that future decision, services, and policies made and adopted by the City Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic; and
 - (d) to formally call upon other bodies and organisations to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.”