

Majority Group Motion for Debate

This Council recognises the Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 that called on the Government to "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."

People with experience of care often face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives; often facing discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.

As corporate parents, we have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who experience care provided by us as an authority and should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.

This council therefore resolves:

- That it recognises that people with experience of care are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the 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.
- That this Council will treat experience of care as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
- To formally call upon all other bodies to treat experience of care as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of people with care experience when developing new policies based on their views.