

**Full Council – 18 November 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Labour Group Motion**

**Brent's commitment to care experienced people**

**Brent Council notes:**

- According to the Local Government Association, English councils need £2.7bn more in funding for children's social care by 2025.
- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, they often face challenges, discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships employment, and in the criminal justice system.
- As corporate parents, we have a special responsibility to make sure that children and young people who may have had disrupted experiences of family life get the support they need to live the happiest and healthiest lives possible, so that they reach their potential.
- The positive work of Brent's Corporate Parenting Board in improving the lives and experiences of our children looked after and care leavers, supported by the voices and lived experiences of our children and young people, working in partnership to embed a corporate parenting culture within Brent.
- Our renewed Care Leaver Local Offer and adoption of the Care Leavers Charter, which, alongside existing support with education, housing, and employment, includes:
  - Free internet access for those claiming universal credit
  - Access to the Digital Resident Support Fund for a device
  - Support from mentors with things like writing a CV, handling tenancy documents
  - Access to a rent deposit scheme
  - Up to £3,250 to purchase essentials for their first home
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

**Brent Council believes that:**

- Brent's children and young people deserve the best start in life.
- The voices, needs, priorities and rights of children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do, informing our work in becoming a fully accredited UNICEF Child Friendly community. Ensuring experience of care is a protected characteristic in our work as a council is crucial to this.
- Care experienced people are a disadvantaged group who face challenges and discrimination, and Brent has a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making.
- Key council policies and changes in policy should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience.

**Brent Council resolves:**

- To formally support the CSA's Show Us You Care campaign, and write to Government calling for care experience to be made a protected characteristic as part of the Government's review of children's social care and for a sustainable, long term funding settlement for Children Social Care.
- To become a signatory of the Kinship Care Alliance manifesto, supporting residents who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents aren't able to.

Councillor Ishma Moeen  
Wembley Hill Ward