

## **COUNCIL MEETING 26 JULY 2023**

### **ALTERATION TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR COLE**

“Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their life-whether it be societal stigma, self-doubt, trauma, depression, attachment disorders, trust issues or finding a sense of ‘where they belong’. Many care leavers, and despite the resilience of many care experienced people have had no choice but to develop, society all too often does not take these added barriers in to account. Peterborough needs to be a city that shatters these barriers.

Housing, health, finance, education, positive relationships, employment and involvement in the criminal justice system care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas. In plain English, it can be a Post Code Lottery. As corporate parents, all Peterborough City Councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and life chances for the children who are looked after by us as an authority. Being placed in care is not their fault and should not cause continued lifelong problems.

All Peterborough City Council Corporate Parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in all aspects of our council work. All our wards within Peterborough will benefit from this motion being proposed.

All Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society. The Public Sector Equality Duty (2010) requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics. I would like Peterborough City Council to give Care Leavers a Protected Characteristic status.

Council therefore notes that:

- Care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.

- Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.

**Council agrees to:**

- **Annually publish all statistical information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment alongside other equality data.**
- **Formally call upon all other public bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.**

**Council requests that Cabinet commit to:**

- ~~The possibility~~ **Future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by this Council being assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.**
- **Including care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives, in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council.**
- **Treating care experience as a as a Protected Characteristic.**
- ~~Working together to establish where services and departments are combined with Cambridgeshire, that all care leavers within the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire will treat all Care Leavers similarly.~~
- **To continue to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”**