

Agenda Item 5(b)

Notices of Motion

	Document	Pages
1.	Councillor Jenkins – 21 October 2020 The Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Mental Health Services	50
2.	Councillor Carr – 12 November 2020 No Child Should Go Hungry	50 – 51
3.	Councillor Ferrans – 12 November 2020 Keeping Affordable Homes Affordable	51 – 52
4.	Councillor M Bradburn – 12 November 2020 Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps	52 - 53

Enquiries and Amendments

Amendments to motions must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday 20 November 2020.

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1. The Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Mental Health Services

Councillor Jenkins (21 October 2020)

1. That this Council notes:
 - (a) the significant impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on people's mental health;
 - (b) that demand for mental health services, from people never having accessed services before, is forecast to increase by 1.3 million people for moderate-severe anxiety and 1.8 million for moderate to severe depression across the UK; and
 - (c) that the NHS will be under greater strain, as researchers estimate that more than 230,000 NHS workers may need treatment and support due to the mental health impact of Covid-19.
 2. That this this Council resolves to:
 - (a) ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to establish a Mental Health Taskforce that focuses on planning for the long-term impacts from Covid-19 on the mental health of the residents of Milton Keynes;
 - (b) request that the Cabinet member responsible continue to prioritise mental health services; and
 - (c) make representations to the Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety, to ask that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) review resources that will be needed for mental health services as the impact of Covid-19 on mental health grows.
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2. No Child Should Go Hungry

Councillor Carr (12 November 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:
 - (a) on 21st October 2020 Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart voted against a Labour motion that would have extended free school meals for children throughout school holidays, up until Easter 2021;
 - (b) 322 MPs voted against the motion, and 261 voted for it;
 - (c) on 8th November 2020 the Conservative government U-turned on this decision, setting up a Covid Winter Grant Scheme and extending the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021;
 - (d) the basic annual salary for an MP from April 2020 is £81,932;
 - (e) in their 2020 Vital Signs Report, the MK Community Foundation found that an estimated 10,900 (17.7%) of children are living in poverty, and

some areas of Milton Keynes show child poverty rates as high as 32%;
and

- (f) in March 2020, the Child Poverty Commission Interim Report found that:
 - (i) Child poverty is rising. Latest figures suggest that there are currently high levels of child poverty in Milton Keynes. Child poverty has also started to rise in absolute terms.
 - (ii) Child poverty is multi-faceted.
 - (iii) Children move in and out of poverty.
 - (iv) In Milton Keynes, more than 75% of all children in poverty are in households where at least one person is working.
- 2. That this Council resolves to:
 - (a) publicly condemn the decision of Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to vote against the Labour motion to extend free school meals on 21st October 2020; and
 - (b) request the Leader of the Council write to Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to convey the disappointment and anger over this decision on behalf of the Council.
- 3. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
 - (a) reaffirm its own commitment to fight child poverty; and
 - (b) lobby the Conservative government and the Milton Keynes MPs for:
 - (i) Free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit
 - (ii) Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown
 - (iii) Free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

3. Keeping Affordable Homes Affordable

Councillor Ferrans (12 November 2020)

- 1. That this Council notes:
 - (a) that shared ownership, underwritten by this Council or registered social landlords, is the only means whereby many residents are ever able to get their foot onto the ladder of home ownership;
 - (b) that some owners, when selling their share on, charge a premium above the sale price, making the homes less affordable to those that need them;

- (c) that some registered social landlords have outlawed such premiums;
and
 - (d) that in other cases huge premiums have been requested.
2. That the Council resolves to request that Cabinet:
- (a) investigates whether the planning system, either by conditions on permissions, or by policy in the next Local Plan, can be used to outlaw such premiums or to restrict their value;
 - (b) investigates whether the Council, when selling new shares in Council properties, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value; and
 - (c) investigates whether the Council, when handling requests to sell existing shares, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value.
3. That this Council then requests Cabinet to do all it can to stop the practice of charging, via any mechanism, amounts excessively beyond the value of the homes and contents being sold, when shared ownership properties are sold on, striking a balance between compensating the owner for the share of the market value of improvements made that they will not retain, and keeping the home affordable for subsequent owners.
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4. Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps

Councillor M Bradburn (12 November 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:
- (a) looked after young people travel a difficult path in their time in local authority care;
 - (b) there is no common age at which young people are ready to leave the structure of care; this is never more apparent than when considering accommodation, and the access to it;
 - (c) as the Corporate Parent to looked after children and care leavers, this Council has a duty to prepare young people for the reality of housing options;
 - (d) most young people cannot afford rent deposits when they first leave home; and
 - (e) around 25% of all our households in temporary accommodation are headed by people under the age of 25, often following a failure to transfer successfully to independent living, demonstrating that young people, whether or not they are in care, can sometimes struggle with accommodation.

2. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
 - (a) ensure looked after children and care leavers are given the opportunity to consider their housing options in detail, including information about the housing market and entitlement to housing, which comprises:
 - (i) the deposits required for all types of rented housing;
 - (ii) how to access waiting lists for Registered Provider and Council housing; and
 - (iii) support to engage with any Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme, when it is introduced.
 - (b) ensure when young people are ready to leave care, they are supported to choose the accommodation that will best suit them (given the constraints on local provision), and that they are given as much notice as possible;
 - (c) ensure thorough training and mentoring for looked after children and care leavers, so that they are supported to gain the skills for increasing independence, including managing a household and budgeting/finance skills;
 - (d) encourage schools to include this information and training for all children; and
 - (e) consider providing an information pack to young people as they register to vote at 18, or via the schools, and parents educating at home, at 16.
3. That to achieve these aims, this Council also resolves to request Cabinet to:
 - (a) accelerate the planned review into the current process of how looked after children and care leavers move into their next stage of accommodation, and involve the Care Leavers Housing Champion, the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, and the Corporate Parenting Panel in reviewing any proposals;
 - (b) investigate whether care leavers would be entitled to bonds for rent deposits in the private or social housing sectors, and consider plugging any gaps in entitlement, while still helping with the selection of alternative accommodation, often more suitable, such as shared occupancy and supported accommodation; and
 - (c) consider whether more supported accommodation is needed.