

# Merton Council

## Council

19 April 2023

### Supplementary Agenda 4: Amendments to Motions

#### Amendments

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- *Conservative Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion 7c*
- *Labour Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion 7c*
- *Conservative Amendment to Labour Motion 7d*

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# Agenda Item 20

Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group – Schools and Young People – Care Leavers as a protected Characteristic

Proposed by: Cllr Chessie Flack

Seconded by: Cllr Samantha MacArthur

~~Council understands that:~~

~~1. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.~~

Council notes that:

- ~~2.~~ Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;
- ~~3.~~ Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
- ~~4.~~ Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
- ~~5.~~ As corporate parents, Councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority.

Council agrees that:

- ~~6.~~ The work done to further strengthen the role of corporate parenting in Merton is helpful and that all corporate parents should consider acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to reflect their needs in any aspect of council work.
- ~~7.~~ Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society wherever and whenever possible.
- A task group should be formed to gather the evidence regarding the experiences of care leavers in Merton.

Council therefore requests Cabinet:

~~8. Considers care experience as a local protected characteristic in Merton;~~ 1. To develop plans to engage those in and leaving the care system to understand how best to protect them from discrimination and maximise their life chances.

~~9. To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views and reflect these in Equality Impact Assessments;~~

~~10.2.~~ To continue to build on the existing ringfenced apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced people by committing to an agreed appropriate number of apprenticeships places each year delivered through the Council's levy funding.

~~Councillor Chessie Flack Councillor Samantha MacArthur Councillor Hina Bokhari~~

~~Cllr Thomas Barlow Cllr Andrew Howard~~

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**Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group – Schools and Young People – ~~Care~~  
Leavers Treating care experience as a protected cCharacteristic**

Proposed by: Cllr Chessie Flack

Seconded by: Cllr Samantha MacArthur

**Council understands that:**

1. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

**Council notes that:**

2. Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;
3. Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
4. Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
5. As corporate parents, Councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority.

**Council agrees that:**

6. The work done to further strengthen the role of corporate parenting in Merton is helpful and that all corporate parents should consider acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to reflect their needs in any aspect of council work.
7. Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society wherever and whenever possible.

**Council therefore requests Cabinet:**

8. ~~Considers care experience as a local protected characteristic in Merton~~ Treats care experience as an additional local equality strand alongside the existing protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010;

9. To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views and reflect these in Equality Impact Assessments;
10. To continue to build on the existing ringfenced apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced people by committing to an agreed appropriate number of apprenticeships places each year delivered through the Council's levy funding.
- ~~10-11.~~ To support care experienced people into career opportunities available in the Council and borough more widely, including through Merton's own graduate development programme places.

**Councillor Chessie Flack Councillor Samantha McArthur Councillor Hina Bokhari**

Labour Motion: A Police Service people can trust, and that is responsive and accountable.

Proposed by: Cllr Stringer

Seconded by: Cllr Macauley

Motion text:

Council notes:

- Merton residents and all Londoners expect and deserve a Police Service they can trust, not fear, which responds to the needs of the communities it serves and is accountable to the community for the decisions it makes.
- With deep concern the appalling findings of Baroness Casey's independent review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service, including the findings of institutional racism, sexism, misogyny, and homophobia in the Met, and the failure to implement operational, cultural, and systemic change that is so desperately needed.
- That the deeply troubling failures highlighted in the Casey review are overwhelmingly due to a longstanding failure of culture within the force. ~~However, the review also highlights that government cuts to funding for the Met have exacerbated some problems.~~
- And welcomes the commitment from the new Met Commissioner to major reform of the Metropolitan Police Service and to rebuilding trust amongst Londoners.
- The strong and positive working relationship that Merton Council and Merton Police maintain, which is focused on keeping our borough one of the safest anywhere in London.
- The administration's response to the Turnaround Plan which expresses our wish to work with the Police to develop and support the aims of the plan, and ensure our local priorities are achieved alongside the changes that need to be seen in the Met.

Council believes:

- That to see any progress towards rebuilding trust and confidence in the police, the Metropolitan Police must fully follow the recommendations of the Casey review and work with our communities in a genuine and meaningful way.
- That the example of effective relationships with police partners here in Merton demonstrates that there is a way forward for the Metropolitan Police Service.
- That a local, neighbourhood policing presence and effective engagement with local communities is essential to people being able to feel safe in their communities and to building trusting relationships with the Police Service.

Council resolves:

- To send a letter from the Leader of the Council to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police calling for the full implementation of all recommendations set out in Baroness Casey's review.
- For the Cabinet Member for Civic Pride to work with the Police and residents to ensure that voices of local people are included in the way that their community is policed.
- Campaign with other London Boroughs for and the Mayor of London to be held to account for the rapid rise in crime levels across London since 2016. Especially the 40% rise in knife

crime, 74% rise in robbery and 39% rise in burglary; and to lobby the Mayor of London to reverse his decision to close Wimbledon Police Station. for the government to fully reverse their damaging cuts to our Police Service, and to keep our local Police Stations in Mitcham and Wimbledon open.

Cllr Nick McLean    Cllr Daniel Holden    Cllr Thomas Barlow    Cllr Max Austin

Cllr Eleanor Cox    Cllr Andrew Howard    Cllr Michael Paterson

Motion now to read:

Labour Motion: A Police Service people can trust, and that is responsive and accountable.

Proposed by: Cllr Stringer

Seconded by: Cllr Macauley

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- That the deeply troubling failures highlighted in the Casey review are overwhelmingly due to a longstanding failure of culture within the force.
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- The strong and positive working relationship that Merton Council and Merton Police maintain, which is focused on keeping our borough one of the safest anywhere in London.
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