



ADUR DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Council
19 October 2023

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice (1)

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Officer Contact Details:-

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Andy McGregor which has been seconded by Councillor Kevin Boram.
- 1.2. Council is asked to consider and debate the motion prior to it being referred to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for determination under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to debate the motion, as set out in Annex A to this report, prior to its referral to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for consideration and determination.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Andy McGregor, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the District.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications associated with this motion will be considered by the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee following its referral.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under section 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

Notice of Motion – Support for West Sussex Care Leavers

The Care Leavers service in West Sussex supports young people to exit care successfully as they move towards independence, and operates under a clear legislative framework provided by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The most recent Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on the 13th September 2023, included a paper on 'Leaving Care in West Sussex' which was in direct response to the recent comments in the full inspection by Ofsted back in March 2023 with respect to meeting the needs of care leavers.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces corporate parenting principles which comprise seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to. The West Sussex Care Leavers service and increasingly their partners, operate in line with these principles which centre around the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people; to encourage those children and young people to express their views and to take those views into account; to help children and young people gain access to and make the best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners; to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people; for those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their homelives, relationships and in education or work, and ultimately to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Whilst it is accepted that corporate parenting is not the statutory responsibility of the District Council, as District Councillors we should acknowledge that we are all corporate parents, particularly given that the West Sussex House Project Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed by all seven of the District and Boroughs Council partners, endorsing this view.

But as Adur District Councillors, we could go further and support the aspirations of the West Sussex Care Leaver service through initiatives such as;

- Providing a shopfront facing community base for our Care Leavers – providing a communal space to meet, laundry facility, life skills, Wi-Fi and a place to meet Leaving Care Personal Advisors
- An apprenticeship or work-based opportunity provided by the District and Borough for any Care Leaver who wanted to explore this as an alternative Employment Education and Training option.

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader to instruct officers to explore these initiatives, by engaging directly with the West Sussex County Council, to proactively help the service move towards Good and onto Outstanding status through the implementation of these initiatives for the benefit of our young people leaving care.

Proposer - Cllr Andy McGregor
Secunder - Cllr Kevin Boram