



## COUNCIL MEETING – 5 JULY 2018

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### **Motion 1: Fairness for All**

Moved by Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo  
Seconded by Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Islington is proud to be a welcoming and tolerant borough that is home to many people from different backgrounds and from places across the world. Many people who have made Islington their home have done so after fleeing persecution and conflict. We are proud that the sanctuary Islington has provided has allowed them to make new lives here and that many make invaluable contributions to our community.

This Council is steadfast in its support of the vulnerable, the dispossessed and those seeking a better life. From our support for the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, to our welcoming of and support for Syrian refugees in recent years; Islington is proud to be a place that not only supports people, but fights for what is right and against injustice.

This Council notes that –

- In recent months, the Government's 'hostile environment' policies have rightly been condemned by many, including this Council, for the impact they have had on people who have lived in Britain for decades and are part of the Windrush Generation.
- Concerns raised by many organisations about the treatment of people held in immigration detention centres in the UK, exacerbated by the Government's 'hostile environment' policies. The rate of suicide attempts in detention is now more than one a day and over 50 per cent of those detained in 2016 did not have any legal representation.
- The Government's ongoing treatment of local residents originally from other European Union countries as bargaining chips in its Brexit negotiations is a further example of the 'hostile environment' policies and rhetoric it has adopted.

This Council further notes that -

- The UK's practice of detention is a blight on its standing in the international community, with the UK being the only country in Europe with no time limit on detention.
- The Executive Member for Community Development wrote to the Home Secretary in March 2018 seeking action to address concerns about conditions at the Yarl's Wood Detention Centre.
- This Council has welcomed 14 Syrian refugee families to the borough.

- This Council has provided advice and support to local residents affected by the Government's failure to guarantee the full rights of approximately 30,000 local residents originally from other European Union countries to remain and work in the UK.
- Our commitment to making Islington a fairer borough includes standing up for everyone who lives here, regardless of their country of origin.
- In 2017-2018, the Council's No Recourse to Public Funds Team supported 147 people who had problems with their immigration status.

This Council resolves to –

- Explore establishing a programme of briefing sessions for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, to enable them to provide advice to residents affected by the Windrush scandal;
- Explore how to direct local residents affected by the Windrush scandal towards independent immigration advice, including by providing training to Frontline council staff;
- Make representations to the Government to urge them to implement the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Detention, including to end the practice of indefinite detention and introduce a time-limit of 28 days on the length of time anyone can be detained for immigration purposes; prosecute staff if there is evidence of abuse in detention; only use detention as a last resort; and directly involve experts-by-experience in future inquiries into detention;
- Continue to support calls for the rights of local residents originally from other European Union countries to be immediately guaranteed.

## **Motion 2: Parity of Esteem Between Physical and Mental Health Services**

Moved by Cllr Osh Gantly

Seconded by Cllr Janet Burgess

This Council believes that the NHS is one of this country's proudest achievements. On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, the NHS celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and this Council wishes to thank all those who work for the NHS for the care and support they give to local people.

However, this Council also notes that the NHS faces significant challenges, including ensuring there is a genuine parity of esteem between physical and mental health services.

This Council notes –

- Concerns about pressures facing the NHS today and increasing moves by the Government towards privatisation.
- NHS trusts reported a collective deficit of £791 million at the end of 2016/17. Meanwhile, Government funding allocated to private sector providers has grown from 4.4 per cent in 2009-10 to 7.7 per cent in 2016-17.
- The urgent need for properly-funded and preventative mental health services, that can be accessed by all residents who need them. 1 in 6 adults in Islington has at least one diagnosed mental health condition. People in contact with specialist mental health services in Islington have a mortality rate 3.6 times higher than that of the rest of the general population in London and England.
- National mental health spending fell by £600 million between 2010 and 2015. There are over 5,000 fewer mental health nurses than in 2010.

This Council further notes –

- Many Islington residents are not always receiving the mental health services they need, particularly from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities who face extra barriers in accessing these services.
- At least one in ten children and young people are affected by mental health problems. The Council's ongoing work to support Child and Adolescent Health Services (CAMHS) aims to better co-ordinate services to support young people.
- The Health and Care Scrutiny Committee published a report on the effectiveness of improving psychological therapies (IAPT) services, to which the Council Executive responded on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- The work of Thrive LDN, a movement to improve mental health and well-being across the capital.
- The importance of joined-up and preventative health services in helping residents lead active and healthier lives and reducing health inequalities, including mental health inequalities, in the borough.

This Council resolves to –

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health to urge him to ensure a genuine parity of esteem is achieved between physical and mental health services, and to provide adequate funding to ensure the NHS can deliver mental health services for all;
- Work with NHS partners, and the voluntary and community sector, to ensure residents can access the mental health services they need; including by providing community-based preventative services and commissioning specific services for residents from BAME communities;
- Support Thrive LDN's campaign to empower individuals and communities in Islington to improve their mental health;
- Reaffirm this Council's commitment to ensuring the NHS remains free at the point of use, and remains publicly owned and publicly accountable.

### **Motion 3: Make Votes Matter**

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

Voices across the political spectrum have raised concerns over the First Past the Post voting system.

The Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform publication "The Many, Not the Few - Proportional Representation & Labour in the 21st Century" lays out many of the concerns: First Past the Post elects governments and councils that don't match the votes cast and creates safe seats that discourage political engagement.

Many London boroughs had turnout lower than 40% at the recent local elections. These elections may have been the last council elections where EU voters could vote.

This Council notes –

- That no party has done more to advance the case of Proportional Representation than the Labour Party, introducing Single Transferable Vote into Scottish local elections and the Alternative Member System into the Welsh Assembly, the London Assembly and the Scottish Parliament.

- That the Single Transferable Vote system is already used at local elections in Scotland and Northern Ireland and does better to elect councils representative of the votes cast, whilst maintaining the constituency link.
- That turnout at the Scottish local elections is noticeably higher than elections in the UK, with proportional representation playing a part in improving engagement.
- That this government has failed to guarantee the rights of existing EU citizens.

This Council believes –

- A vibrant and engaged local democracy is good for our community and that proportional representation helps deliver that.
- That EU Citizens should not lose their right to vote or to stand in local elections.

This Council resolves –

- To write to Islington's MPs to ask them to express their support for the principle of proportional representation at Council Elections and retention of voting rights for EU citizens;
- To contact the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask for a review of the First Past the Post voting system for local council elections.