

COUNCIL MEETING – 19 September 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Care Leavers as a Protected Characteristic

Proposed by: Cllr Michelline Safi-Ngongo

Seconded by: Cllr Claire Zammit

Also Supported by: Cllr Gulcin Ozdemir

This council notes:

- Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives, and have a unique perspective, gained from their experiences of previously being children looked after.
- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account with care experienced people having poorer outcomes. For instance, they are 3 times more likely to be not in employment, education or training than other young people.
- One third become homeless in the first two years immediately after they leave care and 25% of homeless people have been in care at some point in their lives.
- Almost 25% of the adult prison population have previously been in care and nearly 50% of under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have spent time in care.
- Care experienced young people have consistently been found to have much higher rates of mental health difficulties than the general population and they are approximately four times more likely to have a mental health condition than children who lived with their birth families. Care experienced people also have shorter life expectancy.
- Despite these challenges many of our care experienced young people have gone on to, for example, run successful businesses, become teachers and be role models in the community.
- 62% of our care experienced young people are in Employment, Education or Training (July 2023) and 38 young people are currently in university.
- 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 a local authority
- All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work

- 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 requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council further notes:

- The Islington Together 2030 strategy provides a vision for the borough to be an inclusive place for everyone.
- The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, published in May 2022, recognised the often-negative outcomes for people with care experience and recommended that the government should make ‘Care Experienced’ a protected characteristic.
- The Children’s Society 2021 paper, ‘Towards a London-wide Local Care Offer’, also recognised the need for Councils to do more to support people with care experience.
 - The terms care leavers and care experienced are used interchangeably within this report. In recent years, the care experienced community has expressed a preference for this term to be used. However, the term care leaver is entrenched in law and statute and as such, whilst Local Authorities and other partner agencies can change the term that they use, the term care leavers will remain in some form.
- Islington Council provides several opportunities for young people with care experience, including support to enable them to access education, employment and training to reflect their career or educational aspirations and help them to achieve their potential.
- The Care Leaver Local Offer comparison website acknowledges the extensive offer of services available for young people with care experience in Islington.
- 54 Councils have taken the step of making care experience a protected characteristic as of 21st September 2023.

The Association of London Directors of Children’s Services (ALDCS) have led on the development of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact. The Compact aims to improve the consistency and quality of local offers available to London’s persons’ with care experience.

This Council resolves to:

- Agree that ‘Care Experienced’ should be considered as a local protected characteristic by the London Borough of Islington.
- Note that London Borough of Islington’s senior leaders will continue to work with HR to provide opportunities for young people with care experience to obtain work experience, training and employment at Islington as part of the Council’s corporate parenting responsibilities.
- Put the needs of care experienced people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- Review the Council’s equality impact assessment approach and guidance alongside our social value policy to identify opportunities for the whole council to improve opportunities for people with care experience.

- Formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
 - Continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.
 - Explore further how those who have ever been care experienced is included within care experienced as a protected characteristic.
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Motion 2 – Stop Fatalities from Catastrophic Bleeding

Proposed by: Cllr John Woolf

Seconded by: Cllr Hannah McHugh

This Council notes:

- The tragic loss of lives every year due to traumatic bleeding and the paramount importance of the first few minutes in saving someone's life when these situations occur.
- The tragic loss of life due to extreme bleeding which could have been prevented by a simple piece of kit which is easy to operate.
- Haemorrhagic shock is responsible for 1.9 million deaths worldwide.
- Catastrophic bleeds can happen for a variety of reasons, such as car accidents, work related injuries or stabbings.
- The tragic loss of Daniel Baird in 2017, who was stabbed to death outside a Birmingham pub and the subsequent work of the Daniel Baird Foundation in promoting the use and installation of Bleed Control Kits across the UK.
- On average, it takes an ambulance 7 minutes and 44 seconds to respond to a category 1 incident in London, but bleeding from serious injuries can be fatal in as little as 3 minutes.
- There was a 16% increase in Met Police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in London in the past year.
- In 2019/20 Islington recorded 554 knife crime offences, which was a 19% reduction compared to 2018/19.

This Council Further Notes:

- The rollout of 22 Community Held Bleed Control Kits across Islington.
- The work carried out by Islington Council in producing a Bleed Control Kit Strategy, which reflects our ambition and our approach
- The importance of our borough's emergency response infrastructure, including Bleed Control Kits and defibrillators, in keeping residents and visitors prepared for potential unfortunate emergencies.
- The importance of an approach to community safety which is focused on early intervention and prevention that aims to stop violence happening, minimise the impact, support victims, divert offenders and empower residents.
- The role a culture of care in Islington can play in keeping residents safe, and how this has reflected in other successful schemes across the borough such as the Safe Havens scheme.

This Council resolves to:

- Publicly thank and congratulate Lynne Baird for her efforts in memory of her son Daniel to found The Daniel Baird Foundation which has had success in promoting the need for Bleed Control Kits across the UK.
 - Work with key community stakeholders to find more locations for Bleed Control Kits across Islington, so that we can extend the provision of these life saving kits.
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Motion 3 – A Safer Nighttime Economy

Proposed by: Cllr Angelo Weekes

Seconded by: Cllr Heather Staff

This Council notes:

- Spiking is a horrific crime which usually targets women and girls and is something we are determined to tackle in Islington.
- The long-term effects of spiking are physical, mental and emotional with many victims needing treatment for extended periods following the incident to support physical, mental and emotional health.
- Research has shown that women were the victims in most spiking offences, with 74% of victims being women.
- That the average age of victims of all types of spiking is 26 years old.
- That there is currently no single offence that covers spiking, but instead a range of more general offences can be used to prosecute perpetrators.
- That everyone is vulnerable to being a victim of spiking, but women are targeted at higher rates than men, with an estimated 1 in 9 women being targets, compared to 1 in 17 men.
- Existing legislation covers spiking through various offences such as assault or maliciously administering a poison which makes it difficult to extract data related to spiking and therefore, makes measuring and monitoring the prevalence of spiking particularly challenging.
- The challenge for entertainers, including musicians and DJs, in being at risk of becoming a victim of spiking and the effects on their job security and wellbeing in the workplace.

This Council Further Notes:

- The announcement in the first King's Speech since the change in Government of a new law to make spiking a specific criminal offence.
- A whole society response is needed to tackle spiking and the underlying reasons for gender-based violence.
- Our work to promote Operation Rana, the Metropolitan Policing Plan to reduce drink spiking. We have engaged with 119 licenced venues in Islington to raise awareness and distribute crime prevention and awareness material.
- The importance of Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement training sessions for venues which covers drinks spiking awareness, violence against women, girls

and vulnerable customers along with the Ask for Angela campaign and the Women's Night Safety Charter. In 2023 over 327 staff from venues across Islington were WAVE trained.

- Islington has 76 venues signed up to the Women's Night Safety Charter.
- Premises with continued failures to safeguard vulnerable customers face the risk of the Police or Licensing Authority Review of their license which can lead to the license being revoked, suspended or have conditions added or activities removed.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the UK Government to seek clarification around changes to the law about making spiking a specific criminal offence.
- Continue to support initiatives that actively challenge cultural attitudes that have made sexual assault and harassment a normal part of a night out.
- Work with trade unions representing musicians, performers and entertainers to ensure that workers are best protected from spiking and the consequences of spiking.

Motion 4 – Standing together against racism and fascism.

Proposed by: Cllr Sheila Chapman

Seconded by: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Also Supported by: Cllr Cinko-Oner

This Council notes:

- The fatal stabbing of three young girls and the injuries of eight more children and two adults at a dance class in Southport on 29th July 2024, which has been followed by the worst unrest the UK has seen in more than a decade.
- The violence and disorder which ensued was fuelled by misinformation spread on social media by the far-right who hold abhorrent anti-immigrant views.
- That social media platforms and their use by right-wing extremists have created a 'perfect storm' for far-right conspiracy and extremist ideologies resulting in the domestic terrorism we witnessed across the UK.
- That the rise of anti-migrant and anti-muslim rhetoric from politicians, and the media, have intensified hate and scapegoating creating hostility and blame.
- The shameful attacks of mosques, and hotels for asylum seekers being set on fire with local shops and businesses being looted.
- The anxiety and pain caused to residents in Islington because of increased harassment, violence and aggression.
- As of 12th August 2024, police had arrested 779 people in connection with the rioting.
- Nearly 40% of Islington's population are people who were born outside of the UK, and that this diversity is our strength.
- The work of Islington Faiths Forum in bringing people together from different backgrounds and faiths in response to hatred and division.

This Council further notes:

- A cross-party statement was released in August, reaffirming our commitment to tackling racism and injustice and standing with those feeling anxious because of the disgusting racist and Islamophobic attacks around the country.
- The anti-racism rally organised by Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House, bringing our community together to reject the politics of division, racism and bigotry.
- The Council was awarded Borough of Sanctuary status in February 2024, after passing a motion in July 2021, showing our commitment to embracing people from all walks of life.
- The pride that we all feel as Councillors of this wonderful borough, that is welcoming, and everyone is embraced regardless of their background.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the call from Government Ministers to review the role of tech companies amidst the UK riots, with the emphasis that social media must ensure that there is no safe place for hatred and illegality on their platforms.
- Urge the Government to clearly address not just social media but crack down on the press and any instigators of hate.
- Request that the Government address the rise in far right and consider that it cannot simply be attributed to social media and that 14 years of austerity has created a culture of hate and blame,
- Further promote the work of the Council's Hate Crime Prevention Champions, and engaging residents to lead on, take ownership and support our drive to tackle hate crime in Islington.
- Continue to actively work with our faith and community members of all backgrounds in Islington to celebrate our borough's diversity and support community cohesion.

Be purposeful and explicit in our council communications, and to always name the riots this August as racist.

Motion 5 – Play in Islington

Proposed by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstong

Seconded by: Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- Play is an important part of every child's development and essential both to their health and happiness.
- In Islington there are free, safe, open-access adventure playgrounds for children aged above six.
- Thriving Neighbourhoods is a £10 million investment programme that allows local people to help shape the transformation of shared spaces on estates across the borough.
- Islington celebrates Playday on the first Wednesday of August.

- That programs like Liveable Neighbourhoods and play streets continue to create safe welcoming spaces for children's play

This Council further notes:

- Playing outdoors can help children to develop self-confidence and social skills, as well as keep healthy.
- Thriving Neighbourhoods is improving play areas/multi use games areas on estates, creating active and healthy environments for residents
- The first-ever International Day of Play, was observed on 11 June 2024

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to change the way we approach place, by promoting play across our streets and open, green spaces, investing in physical activity which contributes to good mental health.
 - Protect, grow and prioritise funding for adventure playgrounds.
 - Recognise the achievements of the playworker workforce through award ceremonies and public promotion.
 - To continue to celebrate Playday and start celebrating UN's International Day of Play next year.
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