

Redditch Borough Council

24th July 2017

Motions on Notice

Support for Care Leavers making the transition to living independently

Proposed by Councillor Tom Baker-Price, seconded by Councillor Jan Potter

We note with deep concern the Children's Society's 'Wolf at the Door' report (2015) and the representations made by Kelly Pickard, the Children's Commissioner on the subject of Council Tax for care leavers.

This report highlights that care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group particularly when transitioning from care into adulthood. It further highlights the alarming number of care leavers falling into debt when moving into independent accommodation for the first time which in some cases has caused homelessness.

As this Council is committed to partnership working with Worcestershire County Council to ensure that young people who have left care are appropriately housed and supported in their transition to independent life we call upon the council to:

1. Reduce care leavers' net liability for council tax, under the national Scheme and after council tax support, to zero until the care leaver's 21st birthday.
2. Introduce a discretionary discount scheme to enable a reduction in the liability for council tax up to and including zero from a care leaver's 21st birthday up to their 25th birthday.

This Council is the council tax billing and housing authority for the Borough of Redditch. Noting the powers this council has under section 13 A of the local Government Financing Act (1992), this council mandates officers to present it with a report within 3 months that enables the council to introduce a scheme addressing these points.