

Motion 2 – Labour group amendment

CHILDREN IN CARE

Proposed by Councillor Tom Usher

Seconded by Councillor Liz Grey

Delete after 'increase in quality' and replace with

The cost of care placements for local authorities in the northwest have in some cases reported a 33% increase over three years, whilst the largest care provider boasts a 26% return on its children's services "investments".

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Council welcomes the ongoing development of an Authority-led strategy to ensure Wirral children receive quality care at a reasonable cost and to report back to all members on progress. This strategy will explore:

- Increasing our in-house capacity
- Bolstering our foster care numbers
- Working with respected non-profit organisations
- Collaborating with the city region to consider commissioning arrangements

Council also asks that the government does its part. Children's Services has not been allocated adequate funding by the government. It is also up to the government to provide central oversight and control of a market that is not, at present, working for children or for the public purse. Council requests that the leader and lead member write to government to express these concerns.

Motion 2 – substantive motion with Labour group amendment

CHILDREN IN CARE

Council notes that six in every 10 looked after children are in care due to abuse or neglect, causing a lasting impact on their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

On behalf of these children, Council demands that the care provided be of the highest quality, while ensuring every pound spent is used well and for the purpose intended.

Council believes that, while many care providers are meeting these obligations, some are not and that the inflationary increases imposed by some providers has not been met with a commensurate increase in quality. **The cost of care placements for local authorities in the northwest have in some cases reported a 33% increase over three years, whilst the largest care provider boasts a 26% return on its children's services "investments".**

Council welcomes the ongoing development of an ~~To resolve this, Council requests Cabinet to consider the creation of some Authority-led~~ **strategy** ~~provision, working with respected non-profit organisations,~~ to ensure Wirral children receive quality care at a reasonable cost and to report back to all members on progress. **This strategy will explore:**

- **Increasing our in-house capacity**
- **Bolstering our foster care numbers**
- **Working with respected non-profit organisations**
- **Collaborating with the city region to consider commissioning arrangements**

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