

**LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Boyland and which was seconded by Councillor Shah**

Camden Council recognises:

- Every elected member and employee of this Council is a corporate parent to the children and care leavers in our care.
- We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after by us.
- This borough's commitment to its children and young people, the importance of its youth mission and the recognition that early intervention and prevention provides the best way to give the best start in life for all our residents.
- That councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.

Camden Council notes:

- A University College London study which showed 70% of care experienced people die early. Over 50% of people who are in custody up to the age of 21 have been in care according to the Become Charity, and a quarter of the homeless population is care experienced, as noted by The Independent Review of Children's Social Care.
- Many people who are care-experienced face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their daily lives. This can be explicit and often comes with assumptions about the characteristics of children and adults who have experience of the care system. The stigma and discrimination can also be implicit and are evidenced in how care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces, and the media.
- Such unconscious bias can, at its worst, lead to care-experienced people facing acute societal difficulties such as being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgments about their ability to parent. Such discrimination can be similar to that faced by other groups with a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.
- The Government commissioned an independent national review of children's social care, chaired by Josh MacAlister. The review visited Camden for one of its deep dives, and one recommendation was to look at making care experience an additional protected characteristic.

Camden Council believes:

- Our children in care and those who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good and responsible parent. This includes how families continue their support, care,

and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence including through employment opportunities.

- That we cannot wait until the Government decides which recommendations to implement and therefore, here in Camden, we should act to be the best corporate parents we can be.
- That when making any decisions in relation to our policies or formulating our Corporate Plans, we should recognise care experienced people as a vulnerable group who face discrimination.
- That whilst we cannot change national legislation, we can use our powers to ensure that the Council consider care experienced people as part of its decision making in order to seek to prevent discrimination and improve life chances, in doing this. This will mean that we treat people with care experience the same as those with a protected characteristic.

Camden Council resolves:

- To treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic in our borough.
- To call upon others to adopt care experienced as a protected characteristic and the corporate parenting principals for care experienced people.
- As a corporate parent, we must put the needs of care experienced young people at the forefront of decision-making and of the future services and policies designed and delivered by the Council. Assess these through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the cumulative impact of any changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic.
- To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people of all ages when developing new Council policies and plans and, where possible, those where the Council produces them in partnership with others.

**2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Simon and which was seconded by Councillor Dixey**

This Council notes:

- The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2023 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11 to 17 year olds is increasing – from 15.8 percent have tried it in 2022 to 20.5% per cent in 2023 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
- The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
- The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children. More than half of children (53%) are aware of promotion in shops and nearly a third (32%) are aware of online promotion.

- The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
- The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
- Increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.

This Council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. Research shows that most children who use vapes have never smoked.

Vaping is not risk free. While vaping products do not contain tobacco, most vaping products do contain nicotine. Illicit vapes in the UK market may not be compliant with UK standards and/or may be counterfeit products. They may pose risks to health from unsafe levels of toxic ingredients and/or have nicotine double or more above the legal UK limit.

This Council recognises the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children.

This Council welcomes the actions being taken in Camden, as reported to Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee members in a recent written response to a question raised during the July meeting of that committee:

“A range of Council partners are working together to reduce the availability and use of vapes by under 18s and support them to take informed decisions, whilst continuing to support adult smokers to quit smoking. This complements the evolving national response on addressing the packaging, promotion, flavours, and free handouts unacceptably used to encourage young people to start and continue vaping, as well as potential for Trading Standards to issue fines to shops selling vapes to under 18s more easily.

1. The most important local actions are being taken by Trading Standards to understand which shops are selling vapes and which venues are in catchments of secondary schools. This evolving intelligence is being used to inform an ongoing and targeted programme of inspection, intel gathering and enforcement action on illegal vapes and underage sales.
2. Trading Standards are also working with retailers to take responsibility for addressing this issue (through the Camden Responsible Retailer programme) and through ongoing communications.
3. Camden’s Health & Wellbeing Department, Camden Learning and Breathe (Camden’s stop smoking provider) are providing support to schools to understand current issues experienced by them on vaping, to tailor the latest Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) teaching resources, provide PSHE Year 9 lessons about vaping, brief school Heads & Governors, and lead workshops on smoking and vaping.

4. The Health & Wellbeing Department and the Council communications team will start a tailored campaign for children and young people providing support and further information, along with tailored literature for secondary school pupils, and support for parents to have conversations with their children.

5. Environmental services are working with partners including the North London Waste Authority to promote available local recycling options and create a localised message campaign.”

This Council calls for:

The Leader of the Council to write to both Victoria Atkins MP and Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment respectively, to express the Council’s demand for the greater regulation of vaping, in particular:

- Vaping products to be in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
- Mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products (this is currently voluntary)
- A ban on free samples of vaping products being given out to children.
- A ban on the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.

This Council further calls for its own activities to be accelerated, particularly in relation to points 4 and 5 above, which are yet to be implemented. This Council requests that the relevant Cabinet Members report to members on timescales and progress on each of the five action points outlined above.

**3. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Spinella and which was seconded by Councillor Parkinson**

This Council notes that Camden has the second highest number of fly-tipping incidents in England with almost 35,000 incidents reported between 2021 and 2023. Only Brent Council has more incidents.

This Council notes that the increase in fly-tipping has been steady since the introduction of the current regime of rubbish collection the administration brought in, in 2017.

Fly-tipping is a form of anti-social behaviour and its perpetrators should be fined when caught. However fly-tipping is also a result of the lack of alternatives for many people, including those who live in small spaces and can’t store their refuse for the days or even weeks until the collection is due.

This Council calls on the administration as a first step to restore weekly bin collection and as a follow-up, to map out the fly-tipping hotspots and further improve the service provision in those areas.

**ENDS**