

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc  
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

Julie Morgan MS  
Deputy Minister for Social Services  
11 March 2024

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**Newport City Council to treat care experience as a protected characteristic**

Dear Julie,

As you are aware, Newport City Council has recently become the first council in Wales and the 75<sup>th</sup> council in the UK to vote to give care experienced people greater recognition when designing policies and services. The motion passed on 23 January 2024, and commits the Council to:

- assess through Equality Impact Assessments the impact on people with care experience of any future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council;
- include care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment, as part of its delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- continue to proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views; and
- call on all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.<sup>1</sup>

In light of the increasing number of councils across the UK that are voting to formally recognise the numerous and significant barriers that many care experienced people face, I would be very grateful for your response to the following questions:

1. What are your views on the motion passed by Newport City Council?
2. In passing its motion, Newport City Council has taken steps to reduce the stigma and discrimination that care experienced people face above and beyond being a signatory to

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<sup>1</sup> Newport City Council, 'Agenda, Council - Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 5.00 pm'

the Welsh Government's Corporate Parenting Charter. Does the Welsh Government believe that the voluntary Corporate Parenting Charter alone is sufficient to eradicate the stigma that care experienced people face?<sup>2</sup>

3. The Council motion explicitly references our Committee's recommendation that the Welsh Government lobby for care experience to become a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government rejected that recommendation. Will the Welsh Government reconsider its response if other Welsh councils join Newport in taking action "to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation"?

I would appreciate your response no later than 30 April.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

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<sup>2</sup> As set out in the Welsh Government's response to our report. See: Welsh Government, ['Written Response by the Welsh Government to the report of the Children, Young People and Education Committee report entitled "If not now, then when? Radical reform for care-experienced children and young people"'](#), 05/07/23