

Amendment to Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Jess Brayne 'Stand Up for Carers – Increasing Carer's Allowance'

Amendment in the name of Councillor Sachin Rajput

Replace "Council Resolves to":

1. Call on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to increase Carer's Allowance by £1,000 a year, from its current rate of £67.25 a week to £87.25, in line with the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit, including those who do not receive the Allowance due to overlapping benefits and with equivalent increase in Carer Premium and Carer Addition.

with

1. Call on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:
 - a. Emphasising that Covid has highlighted the importance of the carer's allowance.
 - b. Requesting that the Treasury investigate what could be done to recognise those who provide care to family members in the future.

Motion should now read:

Liberal Democrat Group motion in the name of Councillor Jess Brayne
Amended by Councillor Sachin Rajput

Stand up for Carers - Increasing Carer's Allowance

The pandemic has highlighted the invaluable role of Barnet's carers, both those employed in the care sector and unpaid people who care for family members. Carers in Barnet have been at the forefront of the coronavirus pandemic response and continue to do a selfless and remarkable job in very difficult circumstances.

Situations provoking care interventions can happen with little warning. Often those giving care have to reduce their working hours or give up work to juggle competing demands. The pressures on young carers can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances. Many carers in Barnet are unaware of their entitlement to financial support, a carers assessment or break, and the support services available.

Council notes that:

1. There are approximately 6.5 million volunteers in the UK who look after a family member or friend who is elderly or has a disability, or a mental or physical illness.

2. Many people who provide care do not recognise themselves as a 'carer'. The latest government figures show that 4,784 unpaid carers in Barnet are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance, although only 3,695 currently do.
3. At just £67.25 a week; Carer's Allowance is the lowest benefit of its kind.
4. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government increased the Universal Credit standard allowance and the Working Tax Credit basic element by £20 a week above the planned uprating in April 2020, but it has not increased Carer's Allowance.

Council resolves to:

1. Call on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer
 - a. Emphasising that Covid has highlighted the importance of the carer's allowance.
 - b. Requesting that the Treasury investigate what could be done to recognise those who provide care to family members in the future.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.