

Council: Tuesday 27th July 2021

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr David Longstaff

Protecting Children in Diplomatic Families

Council notes:

1. The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation”.
2. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) is responsible for securing the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers.
3. 196 of 197 UN Member States are States Parties to the *Convention*. All 197 Member States have signed the *Convention*.
4. The law on diplomatic immunity and its effect on parents and the children of diplomatic staff is complex.
5. Barnet Council was recently involved in a case involving child abuse and a diplomatic family.
6. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has a key role in resolving issues around safeguarding the children of diplomatic staff.

Council believes:

1. Every child should grow up free from abuse.
2. There should be an international review of child protection and diplomatic immunity, that seeks consensus on the paramount importance of the protection of children.
3. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) should support all Local Authorities in carrying out their statutory duties to protect children.

Council resolves to:

1. Urge the FCDO to support Barnet Council and all other Local Authorities in carrying out our statutory duties to protect all children of diplomatic families, by way of having a clear protocol for how they will work with a local authority in circumstances where there are concerns about the welfare of those children.
2. Call on the Government to lead an international review of child protection and diplomatic immunity.

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.