

NOTICES OF MOTION – BRIEFING NOTE

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation

that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

Introduction

The Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another Committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Director is included, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of the Notices of Motion.

(a) Protecting Devons Pensions (Winter Fuel Cuts) – Councillor Connett

Cabinet to note this was debated and determined at the Council meeting of 5 September 2024.

(b) Young Carers Covenant (Councillor Letch)

The Young Carers Covenant is a UK-wide commitment to young carers and young adult carers, setting out ten key outcomes that young carers from across the UK have said are key to improving their lives. It was drawn up by Carers Trust and members of the Young Carers Alliance and was launched on Young Carers Action Day 2024.

Any organisation or individual in a position to take action to help achieve these outcomes is urged to sign up to the Covenant.

The work to date by the Council on supporting the covenant is welcomed, but the Council and its Members are asked to continue this journey, sign the young carers covenant and undertake to implement its aims.

Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Director of Children and Young People's Futures and Integrated Adult Social Care.

What is the Young Carer's Covenant

The Carers Trust estimates that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25. Of these it is estimated that more than 139,000 children and young people are caring for someone with a long-term illness or disability for over 20 hours every week. With over 50,000 of them spending 50 hours or more each week on their caring role.

The Young Carer's Covenant ([final-young-carers-covenant.pdf](#)) sets out ten key outcomes that young carers from across the UK have said are key to improving their lives.

Any organisation or individual in a position to take action to help achieve these outcomes is urged to sign up to the Covenant. This could be national governments, local authorities, schools, colleges as well as parliamentarians across the UK.

It was drawn up by the Carers Trust and members of the Young Carers Alliance.

The Young Carers Covenant was launched on Young Carers Action Day 2024.

The Young Carer's Covenant sets out 10 key changes that will improve young carers' life chances and secure a fair future for all young carers and young adult carers. Signing the covenant is a way for organisations that are working with young carers to demonstrate their commitment to deliver the changes suggested.

Background

The number of young carers known to the Young Carers Service has significantly increased over the time the contract has been in place, with 1,249 young carers known to the service in June 2019 and 2,450 known to the service by June 2024. Devon is an outlier in terms of the numbers of young carers being assessed which is putting a strain on the timeliness and quality of the service being delivered. As the contract is due for renewal in 2026, it is proposed that the Council reviews the current contract to ensure that the new contract is dynamic and better meets the needs of our young carers and their families. This includes a focus on community based early help so that families have a range of support options within their locality.

The current contract began on 1st May 2018 having been awarded to Westbank Community Health and Care, who operate the commissioned service as Devon Young Carers. Young carers referred to Devon Young Carers Service are offered a young carers' assessment. The contract ends in March 2026.

The current contract is funded by Devon County Council and Devon NHS ICB through the Better Care Fund which is overseen by Adult Social Care Commissioning. The current annual funding from the Better Care Fund is £237,375 per year.

Members will need to be mindful of any potential future funding resource if the Better Care Fund money is not a sustainable source of funding. The existing contract is due for renewal in 2026.

Contract Renewal

As our Early Help offer builds in alignment with the development of family hubs, the existing contract needs to be thoroughly reviewed to take into account how the service to young carers can be more young person centred so that young people get the help they need when they need it, rather than waiting for an assessment that may not be the right thing or in the best interest of that young person and their family.

The development of family hubs and our improvements in delivering Early Help mean that, potentially, the needs of a significant proportion of our young carers' needs can be met through early help rather than a formal assessment.

A good practice consultation conducted earlier this year by a sub-group of the Change and Improvement Group for Childrens Social (Chaired by Solveig Wright), identified a number of lessons that can be learned from the local authorities and providers that they spoke to.

The Young Carer's Steering Group, made up of multi-agency partners, meets every other month. There is a work plan that initially has three key priorities; Voice and Visibility, Support Organisation, Improving Life Chances. These work streams reflect much of 10 key changes set out by Young Carers Covenant.

A review of the steering groups action plan and the inclusion of the findings of the good practice consultation will ensure that improvements are driven forward so that we have clear evidence of our commitment to the covenant and that we have a long-term commitment to our young carers.

Implementation of the Covenant

In principle, signing the covenant is a straightforward process. Those organisations looking to sign up are asked to identify those of the Covenant aims that they are best placed to help with and to include this in their sign-up form.

However, the spirit in which this motion has been raised is to make a long-term commitment to supporting young carers.

As a multi- agency body, the steering group is well placed to co-ordinate the plan for delivery and to act on the findings of the Improvement Board sub-group.

The work to review the current contract is integral to any considerations the Council may need to make. Members will need to decide whether there is an

appetite to continue to fund a commissioned contract and how the contract will continue to be funded. This is why we have recommended that the Council waits to formally sign up to the Covenant until the details of the new contract are confirmed, and progress is driven by the steering group to deliver on the workstreams that would support our commitment to the covenant.

(c) Winning a Better Devolution Deal for Devon (Councillor Leaver)

Cabinet to note there was a briefing paper and recommendation presented to the last Cabinet meeting on 9 October 2024 (to be debated further at the 5 December 2024 Council meeting).

(d) Pension Scheme Divestment (Cllr Hodgson)

For Cabinet to note that this motion has been referred to the Investment and Pension Fund Committee for consideration

This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal, or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

MARIA PRICE

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for Enquiries: K Strahan

Tel No: 01392 382264 Room: G31

<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
--------------------------------	--------------------	------------------------------

NIL