

# Fighting for a Fairer Start for Care Leavers – model motion.

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## **This council notes that:**

- a) The Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation, they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The Children's Society found that care leavers can find this extremely challenging and with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.
- b) The local authority has a duty of care to care leavers.
- c) Care leavers are only eligible for the Under 25 Universal Credit rates (£61.05 from 1st April), despite having to manage household bills.
- d) Figures received from the Department for Education show that across there are approximately **[insert figure]** care leavers from **[insert council]**. Of these we estimate approximately **[insert figure]** are at the time of this motion paying council tax and living in **[insert council]**.

## **This council believes that:**

- a) To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax until they are 25.
- b) Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

## **This council resolves:**

- a) To exempt all care leavers living in **[insert council]** from council tax up to the age of 25.
- b) To give consideration to how best to support care leavers who no longer live in **[insert council]** on a case by case basis. Particularly care leavers who were moved out of the area by **[insert council]** during their time in care.

If you are taking this motion to your council, or require further information or support in gathering the data for you council, please contact Local Public Affairs Manager, Georgia Power – [georgia.power@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:georgia.power@childrenssociety.org.uk)