



## **SPECIAL CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

**Present:** Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Dawkins, Harness, Hudson, Shepherd and Shreeve

### **DN.41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillor S. Swinburn

### **DN.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regards to items on the agenda for this meeting.

### **DN.43 CARE EXPERIENCE AS A LOCALLY PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC**

Cabinet received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval to include the care experience as a locally protected characteristic in relevant policies and strategies across the Children and Family Service function.

## **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be instructed to include the following in relevant policies and strategies across the Children and Family Service function.**

*“To continue to prioritise the needs of care experienced adults across North East Lincolnshire and commit to our duty as corporate parents to those that experienced care as children.*

*That this council will treat care experience as if it were any other protected characteristic”.*

- 2. That the Director for Children’s Services be delegated authority to support the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education in the above.**
- 3. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, Director for Adult Social Services and Director for Public Health be delegated authority to support the above inclusion in relevant policies and strategies across the wider council in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder.**
- 4. That Cabinet recommends to full Council the principle of constitutional change to include the above as an addition to the Constitution, ostensibly as part of the general principles of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers so that the ethos set out becomes part of the decision-making process and that full Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to make such change in line with previous delegations made be approved.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION –**

National information highlights that care experienced people are much more likely to be in prison, are far more likely to be homeless and are overrepresented in the sex-work population. Their educational outcomes are, on average, far worse than their peers and they are likely to earn less than those that have not experienced care.

A recent and authoritative study identified that they are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes and, indeed, die sooner than those that did not experience care. These cannot just be attributed to the stigma and discrimination they feel and experience and also reflect their experiences of trauma in childhood and in transitions.

North East Lincolnshire Council is fully committed as Corporate Parents to have high aspirations for our children in care and care experienced adults.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Do nothing - there is national research and evidence that care experienced people face discrimination and stigma. Care experienced have shared their experience of having been regarded as a 'care kid' or 'ex-care kid', and the associations held about their identity as a result. Care experienced people are more likely to be from a black or minority ethnic community, be disabled and have experiences of migration or asylum, potentially complicating their experiences of disadvantage. Making care experience a protected characteristic demonstrates the Council's understanding of this and commitment to our care experienced people.