

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Council

## Agenda Item 29

**Subject:** Recognising Unpaid Carers

**Date of meeting:** 10 July 2025

**Proposer:** Councillor Goldsmith

**Seconder:** Councillor Earthey

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### Notice of Motion

#### Green Group & Brighton & Hove Independent Group

This council notes:

- 1) Unpaid carers are estimated to save the government £162 billion every year<sup>[1]</sup>
- 2) 44% of adults providing unpaid care for over 35 hours a week are in poverty, with nearly 8% of people receiving Carers Allowance relying on food banks<sup>[2]</sup>
- 3) Carers Allowance is entirely deducted from Universal Credit payments and there is a 'cliff edge' when hitting the £196/week part-term earnings limit
- 4) The uncertainty remaining for those being prosecuted due to 'overpayments' of Carers Allowance, which for many was due the complexity of calculating allowances
- 5) Unpaid carers play a vital role in our City and should be recognised and compensated for the work they do
- 6) The government must take swift action to tackle poverty among unpaid carers and not worsen this with prosecutions

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care calling on them to:
  - a) Urgently address how money from Carers Allowance is treated in relation to Universal Credit;
  - b) Change rules around part-time earnings to allow unpaid carers to do more work and remove the 'cliff-edge';
  - c) Cease all current and future prosecutions of Carers Allowance overpayments;
  - d) Enable currently unpaid carers to be able to be paid as carers for family members; and
  - e) Simplify the system for unpaid carers to calculate allowances and expenses.
- 2) Request that a report is brought to Cabinet to consider the option of carrying out a consultation to assess the needs of unpaid carers locally and to explore what the council can do to better support them.

## Supporting Notes

[1] Unpaid care in England and Wales valued at £445 million per day:  
<https://www.carersuk.org/press-releases/unpaid-care-in-england-and-wales-valued-at-445-million-per-day/>

[2] Heading for crisis: Caught between caring and rising costs:  
[https://www.carersuk.org/media/x5sfjlbx/heading\\_for\\_crisis\\_report.pdf](https://www.carersuk.org/media/x5sfjlbx/heading_for_crisis_report.pdf)