

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 29

Subject: Recognising Unpaid Carers

Date of meeting: 10 July 2025

Proposer: Councillor Parrott

Seconder: Councillor Burden

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

This council notes:

- 1) Unpaid carers ~~are estimated to save the government~~ **contribute** £162 billion every year ***in selfless work for loved ones*** [1] ^[1]
- 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^[2]
- 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~~ **are** recognised ***by this Council*** and compensated for the ***valuable*** work they do
- 6) The government ~~must~~ **will continue to** take swift action to tackle poverty among unpaid carers and ~~not worsen this with prosecutions~~ ***ensure fairness in the systems within our welfare state***

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.~~
- 2-1) 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~~ refreshing the local carers strategy which has proved successful and useful since its launch in 2018.

- 1) Welcome the unprecedented rise in the earnings limit on carer's allowance in the government's 2024 autumn budget, meaning carers are able to earn up to £2,340 per year more.
- 2) Give our solidarity to the 20,800 unpaid carers in the city, including 25% of BHCC employees.

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

Recommendations to read if carried:

This council notes:

- 1) Unpaid carers contribute £162 billion every year in selfless work for loved ones[1]
- 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[2]
- 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 are recognised by this Council for the valuable work they do
- 6) The government will continue to take swift action to tackle poverty among unpaid carers and ensure fairness in the systems within our welfare state

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Request that a report is brought to Cabinet refreshing the local carers strategy which has proved successful and useful since its launch in 2018.
- 2) Welcome the unprecedented rise in the earnings limit on carer's allowance in the government's 2024 autumn budget, meaning carers are able to earn up to £2,340 per year more.
- 3) Give our solidarity to the 20,800 unpaid carers in the city, including 25% of BHCC employees.