Council Agenda Item 66

Subject: **Supporting Care Leavers into Private Rented Accommodation**

Date of meeting: **26th November 2026**

Proposer: **Cllr Amanda Evans**

Seconder: **Cllr Tobias Sheard**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Notice of Motion

Labour Group

This Council Notes:

- As a corporate parent, Brighton & Hove City Council has a responsibility to support care leavers in their transition to independent adulthood.
- The council supports care leavers through social housing, deposit and tenancy support.
- The continuing cost-of-living pressures and high private rents in Brighton & Hove, where average monthly rents reached £1,809 in July 2026[1]
- Care leavers often face greater financial insecurity, with limited savings, lower incomes and less access to support, making it harder to meet deposits and other upfront housing costs.[2]
- Many private landlords require a guarantor, often a parent or family member, creating barriers for care leavers who may lack this support.
- Research by the National Youth Advocacy Service found that 42% of responding councils offer rent guarantor schemes to care leavers.[3]
- The Government's November 2026 guidance on housing pathways for care leavers, which identifies rent guarantor schemes as a means of improving access to private rented accommodation[4]

This Council Resolves:

To request the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services to bring a report to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny meeting exploring:

- The feasibility and suitability of introducing a rent guarantor scheme for care leavers in Brighton & Hove.
- Existing schemes operated by other local authorities, including their effectiveness, eligibility criteria and financial safeguards.

[1] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/E06000043
[2] https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-12/Rent%20guarantor%20-%20FINAL.pdf
[3] https://bills.parliament.uk/Publications/58434/Documents/5840
[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-leaver-homelessness-reduction-action-plan

- The financial implications and risks of a scheme, including whether it could complement existing deposit guarantees and tenancy support within available resources.
- How care-experienced young people could be involved in developing any future proposals.