Council, 16 October 2019

Council Motions

Wards: All

Report Authorised by: Director of Law and Governance, Alison McKane

Contact for enquiries:
Wayne Chandai, Head of Chief Executive’s Office and Democratic Services Manager, 020 7926 0029, wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk

Report summary

Motions and amendments submitted by Councillors, in accordance with Standing Order 13, are set out below. Motion 1 and 2 will be debated as per council and committee rules and procedures.

Key to shading:

**Bold** – additions

*Strikethrough* – deletions

**Motion 1: Green**

Homelessness Charter

This Motion is designed to complement the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan put forward for consultation in September 2019.

Council commits to adopting the following Homelessness Charter, and notes that when it refers to those who are ‘homeless’ it includes those who are without shelter of any kind - ‘rough, or street sleepers’ as well as individuals and families who have a roof over their head but live in overcrowded conditions and those with no security of tenure; such as those sofa-surfing and those in temporary accommodation.

Lambeth Council believes that everyone has the right to a warm and secure home that they can afford to live in.

The Council will respect and uphold the rights of anyone who is experiencing homelessness of any kind.

The Council will not contribute in any way to the harsh and inhumane conditions too often experienced by people who do not have a place to call home and commits to improving the living conditions of people who are homeless and to lessen the impact of the negative effects of homelessness.

The Council will not facilitate the government’s hostile environment policies in any way.
To help achieve this Council believes that it is essential to re-state that every person who is experiencing homelessness is entitled to the same treatment as any other resident in the borough. No one should be denied rights because they are experiencing homelessness.

To this end Lambeth Council will make effective the following rights:

1. Homelessness prevention

Each person has the right to access the help and support they need, including financial planning, to avoid homelessness. All individuals have the right to access any support services, including specialist support for those with protected characteristics, that may help them stay in their home be it for mental or physical health, financial or addiction issues.

2. The Right to Housing

If a person does find themselves without a home, their most important right is to exit homelessness. Services supporting access to appropriate housing must be accessible to all homeless people.

3. The Right to Shelter

Where housing cannot be immediately provided, there must be access to decent emergency accommodation for anyone finding themselves without shelter. The Council is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient emergency accommodation available to all, so that no one is forced to sleep rough.

4. The Right to Use Public Space

People who find themselves without a home will have the same right to use public space. They have the right to move freely within it, to rest in it and expect to stay safe whilst there without confronting hostile architecture or design features and without threat of the imposition of a Public Space Protection Order. This includes, but is not limited to, access to pavements, parks, public transport and public buildings.

5. The Right to Equal Treatment

All staff and services uphold the right to equal treatment for all including those who find themselves homeless.

6. The Right to a Postal Address

The Council shall ensure that homeless people who need one have an accessible postal address.

7. The Right to Sanitary Facilities

The Council commits to providing access for all homeless people to basic sanitary facilities sufficient to allow for the level of hygiene appropriate to maintaining human dignity. Including running water (drinking fountains), showers and toilets and to tackle ‘period poverty’ by providing tampons and sanitary towels.
8. The Right to Emergency Services

The right to emergency services (where the Council has influence) – social services, health services, other specialist services, the police and the fire service without fear of being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

9. The Right to Vote

The right to vote, to be included on the electoral register and to be given the necessary documents to prove their identity when voting in elections, without being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

10. The Right to Data Protection

People who find themselves homeless have the right to data protection. Their data will only be shared by the public and other services with their consent and for the purposes of providing services. People who find themselves homeless have the right to exercise control over their personal details.

11. The Right to Privacy

The right to privacy must be respected and protected to the fullest extent possible. The Council is committed to working to ensure that all emergency accommodation provided can deliver on this right.

12. The Right to Survival Practices

The right to carry out practices necessary to survival within the law. While the Council strives for a borough in which such practices are not necessary, we recognize that where people have no other option they will seek support from other people and forage for discarded food to survive. Such survival practices should not be criminalized as such, or banned, or arbitrarily confined to specific areas.

13. The Right to Respect for Personal Property

People who are homeless should have their belongings, including tents and sleeping bags, respected by everyone including public servants. They should never be damaged or thrown away or be removed without compelling need, and if they are removed they should be made available for collection without charge.

14. Protection from violence

The number of violent crimes committed against homeless people in London has increased over the past couple of years. Every person has the right to be safe on the streets or in their homes, be they permanent or temporary. No person who finds themselves without a home should face the fear of violence of any kind in addition to the trauma of experiencing homelessness.

15. The Right to Life

The right to life requires public authorities to take measures to preserve life. If a person who is homeless dies, in each case there should be a public investigation in order to understand the causes of death, what might have prevented it and following this the Council will put processes in place to effect any necessary changes.

Council further resolves to work towards ending homelessness by adopting the following proposals:
- Every person who finds themselves homeless, including those in temporary accommodation, is vulnerable and should be considered as priority need.

- The Housing First model should be implemented to offer housing to all of the borough’s homeless people, offering adequate support to suit each individual’s needs.

- The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) should be activated immediately in any weather which threatens rough sleepers’ health, including heavy rain.

- The council should activate the Extended Winter Provision of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol immediately. The emergency shelters should be opened every night, over the winter and beyond.

- Work with other local authorities to lobby for reform to the LASPO act, to make squatting empty properties safe and equitable for property owners and otherwise homeless people.

- Use the power to cancel council tax arrears where an individual is in danger of becoming homeless due to financial reasons.

- Lobby the Government to make levels of Housing Benefits for young people the same as those for older claimants.

- Lobby the Government to demand the Housing Benefit element of Universal Credit covers 100% of rent not 80%.

- Lobby for affordable social rents to be imposed on private landlords and property investors, prioritizing the provision of permanent homes until everyone is securely housed.

- When someone in Temporary Accommodation (TA) is forced to move by the council or private landlord, support is given to them proportionate to their needs. TA residents are asked to fund their own (often frequent) moves but many do not have the income or support to do so.

Amendment 1: Conservative

Homelessness Charter

This Motion is designed to complement the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan put forward for consultation in September 2019, as required by the Conservative Government’s recently published National Rough Sleeping Strategy. The National Rough Sleeping Strategy commits £100 million to ending rough sleeping by 2017, and follows on from the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018, which places new duties on Lambeth Council to prevent and relieve homelessness.

This Motion puts the Council squarely behind the Conservative Government’s intention to halve rough sleeping by 2022, and end it by 2027.

The National Strategy sets out the Government’s plan to eradicate rough sleeping under three key themes: Prevention; Intervention; and Recovery. It also identifies funding opportunities and its expectations for Lambeth Council to tackle rough sleeping, of which this Homelessness Charter can form a part.

Therefore Council commits to adopting the following Homelessness Charter, and notes that when it refers to those who are ‘homeless’ it includes those who are without shelter of any kind - ‘rough, or street sleepers’ as well as individuals and families who have a roof over their head but live in overcrowded conditions and those with no security of tenure; such as those sofa-surfing and those in temporary accommodation.
Lambeth Council believes that everyone has the right to a warm and secure home that they can afford to live in.

The Council will respect and uphold the rights of anyone who is experiencing homelessness of any kind.

The Council will not contribute in any way to the harsh and inhumane conditions too often experienced by people who do not have a place to call home and commits to improving the living conditions of people who are homeless and to lessen the impact of the negative effects of homelessness.

The Council will not facilitate any of the government's hostile environment policies in any way.

To help achieve this Council believes that it is essential to re-state that every person who is experiencing homelessness is entitled to the same treatment as any other resident in the borough. No one should be denied rights because they are experiencing homelessness.

**Statutory homelessness often stems from problems unrelated to housing issues, particularly for vulnerable people, often with a range of complex needs. Therefore a more effective collaborative working between services within Lambeth Council is required to tackle the root cause of their homelessness.**

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 imposed a new duty on certain public authorities, such as health services, social services and prisons, to refer service users when it considers they may be at risk of homelessness. Studies show that people suffering from mental illness, or being discharged from prison or hospital without pre-arranged accommodation, are some of the most likely to end up rough sleeping.

Therefore the Council commits to working with all partner agencies to ensure that those at risk of homelessness are identified as early as possible, including care leavers, ex-offenders, those with substance misuse issues and/or mental health needs.

The Government’s Rough Sleeping Strategy published in August 2019 identifies the need for a holistic approach with a focus not only on housing issues but other factors which may contribute to someone’s housing problems. The themes of Prevention, Intervention and Recovery need to be fully incorporated into the Lambeth draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan.

It is important that Lambeth Council capitalises on the opportunities offered by this national strategy, which includes additional funding to support local services, to ensure that entrenched rough sleepers in Lambeth are helped off the streets.

To this end Lambeth Council will make effective the following rights:

1. **Homelessness prevention**

   Each person has the right to access the help and support they need, including financial planning, to avoid homelessness. All individuals have the right to access any support services, including specialist support for those with protected characteristics, that may help them stay in their home be it for mental or physical health, financial or addiction issues.

   **Homelessness prevention should also aim to reduce the use of emergency accommodation over time and use social housing more effectively, including meeting the needs of those with a lower priority for social housing, e.g. working households.**

2. **The Right to Housing**
If a person does find themselves without a home, their most important right is to exit homelessness. Services supporting access to appropriate housing must be accessible to all homeless people.

3. The Right to Shelter

Where housing cannot be immediately provided, there must be access to decent emergency accommodation for anyone finding themselves without shelter. The Council is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient emergency accommodation available to all, so that no one is forced to sleep rough.

4. The Right to Use Public Space

People who find themselves without a home will have the same right to use public space. They have the right to move freely within it, to rest in it and expect to stay safe whilst there without confronting hostile architecture or design features and without threat of the imposition of a Public Space Protection Order. This includes, but is not limited to, access to pavements, parks, public transport and public buildings.

5. The Right to Equal Treatment

All staff and services uphold the right to equal treatment for all including those who find themselves homeless.

6. The Right to a Postal Address

The Council shall ensure that homeless people who need one have an accessible postal address.

7. The Right to Sanitary Facilities

The Council commits to providing access for all homeless people to basic sanitary facilities sufficient to allow for the level of hygiene appropriate to maintaining human dignity. Including running water (drinking fountains), showers and toilets and to tackle ‘period poverty’ by providing tampons and sanitary towels.

8. The Right to Emergency Services

The right to emergency services (where the Council has influence) – social services, health services, other specialist services, the police and the fire service without fear of being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

9. The Right to Vote

The right to vote, to be included on the electoral register and to be given the necessary documents to prove their identity when voting in elections, without being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

10. The Right to Data Protection

People who find themselves homeless have the right to data protection. Their data will only be shared by the public and other services with their consent and for the purposes of providing services. People who find themselves homeless have the right to exercise control over their personal details.

11. The Right to Privacy
The right to privacy must be respected and protected to the fullest extent possible. The Council is committed to working to ensure that all emergency accommodation provided can deliver on this right.

12. The Right to Survival Practices

The right to carry out practices necessary to survival within the law. While the Council strives for a borough in which such practices are not necessary, we recognize that where people have no other option they will seek support from other people and forage for discarded food to survive. **Residents should receive guidance and help so they can easily access sources of food and clothing.** Such survival practices should not be criminalized as such, or banned, or arbitrarily confined to specific areas.

13. The Right to Respect for Personal Property

People who are homeless should have their belongings, including tents and sleeping bags, respected by everyone including public servants. They should never be damaged or thrown away or be removed without compelling need, and if they are removed they should be made available for collection without charge.

14. Protection from violence

The number of violent crimes committed against homeless people in London has increased over the past couple of years. Every person has the right to be safe on the streets or in their homes, be they permanent or temporary. No person who finds themselves without a home should face the fear of violence of any kind in addition to the trauma of experiencing homelessness.

15. The Right to Life

The right to life requires public authorities to take measures to preserve life. If a person who is homeless dies, in each case there should be a public investigation in order to understand the causes of death, what might have prevented it and following this the Council will put processes in place to effect any necessary changes. **The council should attempt to trace any relatives and friends and engage with them sensitively in order to ensure that in death, as in life, the homeless person is treated as far as possible with dignity and respect, and in accordance with the wishes of loved ones.**

Council further resolves to work towards ending homelessness by adopting the following proposals:

- Every person who finds themselves homeless, including those in temporary accommodation, is vulnerable and should be considered as a priority need.

- The Housing First model should be implemented to offer housing to all of the borough's homeless people, offering adequate support to suit each individual's needs.

- The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) should be activated immediately in any weather which threatens rough sleepers' health, including heavy rain.

- The council should activate the Extended Winter Provision of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol immediately. The emergency shelters should be opened every night, over the winter and beyond.

- Work with other local authorities to lobby for reform to the LASPO act, to make squatting empty properties safe and equitable for property owners and otherwise homeless people.

- Use the power to cancel restructuring council tax arrears where an individual is in danger of becoming homeless due to financial reasons.
- Lobby the Government to make increase levels of Housing Benefits for young people the same as those for older claimants

- Lobby the Government to demand increase the Housing Benefit element of Universal Credit covers 100% of rent not 80%

- Lobby for affordable social rents and help to increase the supply of homes in the private rented sector, to be imposed on private landlords and property investors, prioritizing the provision of permanent homes until everyone is securely housed.

- When someone in Temporary Accommodation (TA) is forced to move by the council or private landlord, support is given to them proportionate to their needs. TA residents are asked to fund their own (often frequent) moves but many do not have the income or support to do so.

Amendment 2: Labour

Homelessness Charter

This Motion is designed to complement the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan put forward for consultation in September 2019.

Council commits to adopting the following Homelessness Charter, and notes that when it refers to those who are ‘homeless’ it includes those who are without shelter of any kind - ‘rough, or street sleepers’ as well as individuals and families who have a roof over their head but live in overcrowded conditions and those with no security of tenure; such as those sofa-surfing and those in temporary accommodation.

Council notes that the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan sets out many of the principles contained within the Homelessness Charter and welcomes the strategy’s focus on providing vulnerable residents who find themselves homeless with the support they need and deserve.

Lambeth Council believes that everyone has the right to a warm and secure home that they can afford to live in.

The Council will respect and uphold the rights of anyone who is experiencing homelessness of any kind.

The Council does not and will not contribute in any way to the harsh and inhumane conditions too often experienced by people who do not have a place to call home and commits to improving the living conditions of people who are homeless and to lessen the impact of the negative effects of homelessness.

The Council does not and will not facilitate the government’s hostile environment policies in any way. Council condemns the government’s hostile environment policies and their appalling record of rising homelessness, which is arguably the most acute impact of almost a decade of austerity.

To help achieve this Council believes that it is essential to re-state that every person who is experiencing homelessness is entitled to the same treatment as any other resident in the borough. No one should be denied rights because they are experiencing homelessness.

To this end Lambeth Council will make effective the following rights where it is within its legal powers to do so:
1. Homelessness prevention

Each person has the right to access the help and support they need, including financial planning, to avoid homelessness. All individuals have the right to access any support services, including specialist support for those with protected characteristics, that may help them stay in their home be it for mental or physical health, financial or addiction issues.

2. The Right to Housing

If a person does find themselves without a home, their most important right is to exit homelessness. Services supporting access to appropriate housing must be accessible to all homeless people.

3. The Right to Shelter

Where housing cannot be immediately provided, there must be access to decent emergency accommodation for anyone finding themselves without shelter. The Council is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient emergency accommodation available to all, so that no one is forced to sleep rough.

4. The Right to Use Public Space

People who find themselves without a home will have the same right to use public space. They have the right to move freely within it, to rest in it and expect to stay safe whilst there without confronting hostile architecture or design features and without threat of the imposition of a Public Space Protection Order. This includes, but is not limited to, access to pavements, parks, public transport and public buildings.

5. The Right to Equal Treatment

All staff and services uphold the right to equal treatment for all including those who find themselves homeless.

6. The Right to a Postal Address

The Council shall ensure that homeless people who need one have an accessible postal address.

7. The Right to Sanitary Facilities

The Council commits to providing access for all homeless people to basic sanitary facilities sufficient to allow for the level of hygiene appropriate to maintaining human dignity. Including running water (drinking fountains), showers and toilets and to tackle ‘period poverty’ by providing tampons and sanitary towels.

8. The Right to Emergency Services

The right to emergency services (where the Council has influence) – social services, health services, other specialist services, the police and the fire service without fear of being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

9. The Right to Vote

The right to vote, to be included on the electoral register and to be given the necessary documents to prove their identity when voting in elections, without being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

10. The Right to Data Protection
People who find themselves homeless have the right to data protection. Their data will only be shared by the public and other services with their consent and for the purposes of providing services. People who find themselves homeless have the right to exercise control over their personal details.

11. The Right to Privacy

The right to privacy must be respected and protected to the fullest extent possible. The Council is committed to working to ensure that all emergency accommodation provided can deliver on this right.

12. The Right to Survival Practices

The right to carry out practices necessary to survival within the law. While the Council strives for a borough in which such practices are not necessary, we recognize that where people have no other option they will seek support from other people and forage for discarded food to survive. Such survival practices should not be criminalised as such, or banned, or arbitrarily confined to specific areas.

13. The Right to Respect for Personal Property

People who are homeless should have their belongings, including tents and sleeping bags, respected by everyone including public servants. They should never be damaged or thrown away or be removed without compelling need, and if they are removed they should be made available for collection without charge.

14. Protection from violence

The number of violent crimes committed against homeless people in London has increased over the past couple of years. Every person has the right to be safe on the streets or in their homes, be they permanent or temporary. No person who finds themselves without a home should face the fear of violence of any kind in addition to the trauma of experiencing homelessness.

15. The Right to Life

The right to life requires public authorities to take measures to preserve life. If a person who is homeless dies, in each case there should be a public investigation in order to understand the causes of death, what might have prevented it and following this the Council will put processes in place to effect any necessary changes.

Council further resolves to work towards ending homelessness by adopting the following proposals:

- Every person who finds themselves homeless, including those in temporary accommodation, is vulnerable and should be considered as priority need provided with the assistance necessary to find suitable accommodation, whilst balancing the council's legal duties to treat vulnerable people and families with children as priority need under current legislation.

- The Housing First model should be fully funded by central government and implemented to offer housing to all of the borough's homeless people, offering adequate support to suit each individual's needs.

- The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) should be activated immediately in any weather which threatens rough sleepers' health, including heavy rain.
- The council should activate the Extended Winter Provision of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol immediately. The emergency shelters are should be opened every night, over the winter and beyond and the council’s outreach team have access to safe seats at Lambeth Assessment Centre and emergency bed spaces in hostels as well as B&B accommodation if necessary.

- Work with other local authorities to lobby for reform to the LASPO act, to make squatting empty properties safe and equitable for property owners and otherwise homeless people.

- Use the power to cancel council tax arrears where an individual is in danger of becoming homeless due to financial reasons and where they cannot afford to pay.

- Continue to lobby the Government to make levels of Housing Benefits for young people the same as those for older claimants

- Continue to lobby the Government to demand the Housing Benefit element of Universal Credit covers 100% of rent not 80%

- Continue to lobby for affordable social rents to be imposed on private landlords and property investors, prioritizing the provision of permanent homes until everyone is securely housed.

- When someone in Temporary Accommodation (TA) is forced to move by the council or private landlord, support is given to them proportionate to their needs. TA residents are asked to fund their own (often frequent) moves but many do not have the income or support to do so. The council tries to limit moves and offers support through the emergency support scheme where it is necessary.

Council reaffirms its commitment to our plans to build new homes at Council rent on land owned by the Authority; because it is clear that tackling the housing crisis cannot be left to the private sector alone. Lambeth spends over £4m each year on support for homeless people and significant sums on temporary accommodation, but only by tackling the housing crisis can we help provide shelter to those who need it most.

Motion 2: Labour

A Fully Funded, Proper pay rise for Local Government Workers.

This council notes:

- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost an estimated 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than two thirds of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service super heroes. They keep our communities clean, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Council workers deserve a proper pay rise and the government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Back the GMB’s campaign for pay justice and support the pay claim submitted by the NJC local government unions, including a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points above the Living Wage in 2020/21.
- Write to the secretary of state to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a trade union.

Amendment 1: Green

A Fully Funded, Proper pay rise for Local Government Workers.

This council notes:

- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost an estimated 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than two thirds of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service super heroes. They keep our communities clean, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Council workers deserve a proper pay rise and the government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Back the GMB’s campaign for pay justice and support the pay claim submitted by the NJC local government unions, including a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points above the Living Wage in 2020/21.
- Write to the secretary of state to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a trade union.

Motion 3: Conservative

Lobby against the Labour policy of abolishing OFSTED

On 18th September 2019, Lambeth Council cabinet voted to extend the Lambeth Children’s Homes Redress Scheme until January 2022. This scheme provides financial compensation by way of apologising to victims of historic sexual, physical and psychological abuse at children’s homes previously run by Lambeth Council, approved by all councillors except the Green Party.

Council therefore finds it difficult to understand why the Labour Party nationally has voted at its conference to scrap the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (‘OFSTED’), which inspects schools and other institutions responsible for the welfare of children.

In 2015 OFSTED discovered that Children’s Services in Lambeth under Labour were ‘inadequate’, putting children in Lambeth once more at greater risk of harm. Council pays tribute to the hard work of Lambeth council officers and members, driven by the requirements of OFSTED, in continuing to make children’s services safer.

In the last few years councils across England have still failed to protect local children in Rotherham, Newcastle, Keighley, Rochdale, Peterborough, Oxford, Aylesbury and Bristol. Abolishing OFSTED and allowing local authorities to set their own local standards for child protection, as happened during the Shirley Oaks scandal, removes independent scrutiny using national, objective standards. OFSTED has overwhelmingly shone a light into the most troubled areas of our society and helped change them for the better. Had OFSTED existed during the time that staff at Shirley Oaks and other children’s homes in Lambeth were abusing children, the abuse would probably never have happened.

Given its history, Lambeth Council has a more obvious and pressing responsibility than most local authorities to ensure that its children are properly protected and never left in a position where they can be abused.

Council therefore calls on the Labour party to abandon its policy of abolishing OFSTED.
Amendment 1: Green

Lobby against the Labour policy of abolishing OFSTED

On 18th September 2019, Lambeth Council cabinet voted to extend the Lambeth Children’s Homes Redress Scheme until January 2022. This scheme provides financial compensation by way of apologising to victims of historic sexual, physical and psychological abuse at children’s homes previously run by Lambeth Council, approved by all councillors except the Green Party who have supported the call from survivors of abuse and their representatives for an independent scheme and a greater say in the running of the Redress scheme.

Council therefore finds it difficult to understand why the Labour Party nationally has voted at its conference to scrap the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (‘OFSTED’), which inspects schools and other institutions responsible for the welfare of children.

In 2015 OFSTED discovered that Children’s Services in Lambeth under Labour were ‘inadequate’, putting children in Lambeth once more at greater risk of harm. Council pays tribute to the hard work of Lambeth council officers and members, driven by the requirements of OFSTED, in continuing to make children’s services safer.

In the last few years councils across England have still failed to protect local children in Rotherham, Newcastle, Keighley, Rochdale, Peterborough, Oxford, Aylesbury and Bristol. Abolishing OFSTED and allowing local authorities to set their own local standards for child protection, as happened during the Shirley Oaks scandal, removes independent scrutiny using national, objective standards. OFSTED has overwhelmingly shone a light into the most troubled areas of our society and helped change them for the better. Had OFSTED existed during the time that staff at Shirley Oaks and other children’s homes in Lambeth were abusing children, the abuse would probably never have happened.

Given its history, Lambeth Council has a more obvious and pressing responsibility than most local authorities to ensure that its children are properly protected and never left in a position where they can be abused.

Council therefore calls on the Labour party to abandon its policy of abolishing OFSTED.

Motion 4: Labour

Fighting for our NHS

This council notes that a decade of social care and public health cuts and underinvestment in the NHS by the Liberal Democrat and Conservative governments has left services struggling. King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust alone is now spending over £150 million more a year on services than it gets in government funding. Under new reforms the Conservative Government expects NHS trusts in South East London to eliminate deficits like this – effectively a £400 million cut to health services in our region over the next four years.
Notes that Lambeth Labour Councillors have launched a Fighting For Our NHS Campaign to demand proper funding for the local NHS and public health and social care services that prevent illness and support people to stay well in the community.

This council further notes that the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in government have cut a quarter from Lambeth’s public health budget reducing what we can do to support people to eat and drink more healthily, exercise more and access sexual health and addiction services. Every pound spent on public health saves many more pounds to the NHS as people avoid getting ill in the first place. Similarly, the government has cut huge amounts from social care services that keep people out of hospital by supporting disabled and elderly people in their own homes and residential care.

Council calls for:

- A central government investment in South East London’s NHS to at least avoid the £400 million of cuts earmarked over the next four years
- A reversal of the public health cuts to enable us to prevent more illness occurring in the first place
- A long-term funding solution to the social care funding crisis to enable more people to stay well and independent in the community
- South East London’s NHS to better involve local people and representatives in decision making about their services and avoid clinically unjustified closures and privatisations
- NHS bodies in South East London to become London Living Wage accredited and employ and train local people and procure from local organisations as far as possible.

Amendment 1: Green

Fighting for our NHS

This council notes that a decade of social care and public health cuts and underinvestment in the NHS by the Liberal Democrat and Conservative governments has left services struggling. King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust alone is now spending over £150 million more a year on services than it gets in government funding. Under new reforms the Conservative Government expects NHS trusts in South East London to eliminate deficits like this – effectively a £400 million cut to health services in our region over the next four years.

Notes that Lambeth Labour Councillors have launched a Fighting For Our NHS Campaign to demand proper funding for the local NHS and public health and social care services that prevent illness and support people to stay well in the community.

This council further notes that the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in government have cut a quarter from Lambeth’s public health budget reducing what we can do to support people to eat and drink more healthily, exercise more and access sexual health and addiction services. Every pound spent on public health saves many more pounds to the NHS as people avoid getting ill in the first place. Similarly, the government has cut huge amounts from social care services that keep people out of hospital by supporting disabled and elderly people in their own homes and residential care.

Council calls for:
- A central government investment in South East London’s NHS to at least avoid the £400 million of cuts earmarked over the next four years
- A reversal of the public health cuts to enable us to prevent more illness occurring in the first place
- A long-term funding solution to the social care funding crisis to enable more people to stay well and independent in the community
- South East London’s NHS to better involve local people and representatives in decision making about their services and avoid clinically unjustified closures and privatisations
- NHS bodies in South East London to become London Living Wage accredited and employ and train local people and procure from local organisations as far as possible.
- **A delay in the proposed merger of the six borough CCGs under the ‘Our healthier SE London’ plan.**
- Acknowledging the concerns voiced by patients’ groups including: Lack of consultation; risk of worsening health inequalities; governance issues; democratic and public accountability
- Councillor representation on the CCG and other local ‘Borough Based Boards’
- Central government to scrap the planned renewal of Trident nuclear weapons, with the savings (estimated to be £6bn a year over 25 years) invested instead in the NHS.

**Motion 5: Labour**

**Invest in nursery schools now**

This council believes that high quality nursery education is the bedrock on which we can build a fair society offering equality of opportunity to all. Also, what takes place in the early years impacts later development and is one of the keys in tackling the current wave of serious youth violence and mental ill health.

Council agrees that local authority-maintained nursery schools are at the heart of delivering high quality early years education. Nationally, more than 50% are outstanding compared with 10% of other early years settings in the private and voluntary sector. It notes that Lambeth’s five nursery schools, four of which have been found outstanding by Ofsted and the other rated good:

- Are clustered in areas of high deprivation and cater for the most vulnerable children in Lambeth
- Take many children with Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and are skilled in assessing and catering for the needs of such children
- Have a high proportion of graduate staff, many of whom are qualified teachers, while heads of schools have specialist early years teaching qualifications
- Are much more expensive to run than private and voluntary sector nurseries due to the high number of qualified teaching staff (as required by statute)
- Have had no increase in funding for eight years
- Have already federated, with one executive head, to save money, but are still facing a funding crisis
- Are reliant on temporary, supplementary funding from Government which was due to expire in the summer of next year (2020)
- Because the supplementary funding is not enough, are also having to be handed extra money by the council on top of the supplementary funding

Council notes that
Council calls on the Government to undertake a full review of nursery provision and establish high-quality, free nursery education for all as announced by Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Education Angela Rayner at Labour Party conference. This should include at a minimum:

- bringing funding for all nursery places up to a minimum of £7.35 per hour
- establishing permanent premium funding for maintained nursery schools in recognition of their extra responsibilities
- investing in training for nursery staff with the aim of moving towards a graduate workforce

**Amendment 1: Green**

**Invest in nursery schools now**

This council believes that high quality nursery education is the bedrock on which we can build a fair society offering equality of opportunity to all. Also, what takes place in the early years impacts later development and is one of the keys in tackling the current wave of serious youth violence and mental ill health.

Council agrees that local authority-maintained nursery schools are at the heart of delivering high quality early years education. Nationally, more than 50% are outstanding compared with 10% of other early years settings in the private and voluntary sector. It notes that Lambeth's five nursery schools, four of which have been found outstanding by Ofsted and the other rated good:

- Are clustered in areas of high deprivation and cater for the most vulnerable children in Lambeth
- Take many children with Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and are skilled in assessing and catering for the needs of such children
- Have a high proportion of graduate staff, many of whom are qualified teachers, while heads of schools have specialist early years teaching qualifications
- Are much more expensive to run than private and voluntary sector nurseries due to the high number of qualified teaching staff (as required by statute)
- Have had no increase in funding for eight years
- Have already federated, with one executive head, to save money, but are still facing a funding crisis
- Are reliant on temporary, supplementary funding from Government which was due to expire in the summer of next year (2020)
- Because the supplementary funding is not enough, are also having to be handed extra money by the council on top of the supplementary funding

Council notes that

- the recent Government announcement in its autumn statement of £66m extra for early years education and childcare represents an increase of less than two per cent across
maintained nursery schools and the private, voluntary and independent sector and falls far short of what is needed to avoid continued cuts.

- There is no clarity on whether supplementary funding for nursery schools will be maintained, how long for or how much that will amount to.
- There is no further information on an expected Government review of early years provision.
- recent cuts to funding for children’s centres, whilst increasing council reserves to cover the risks from Labour’s estate demolition programme, will also have a detrimental impact on Lambeth’s children in their early years.

Council calls on the Government to undertake a full review of nursery provision and establish high-quality, free nursery education for all as announced by Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Education Angela Rayner at Labour Party conference. This should include at a minimum:

- bringing funding for all nursery places up to a minimum of £7.35 per hour
- establishing permanent premium funding for maintained nursery schools in recognition of their extra responsibilities
- investing in training for nursery staff with the aim of moving towards a graduate workforce