Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Children in Care Should Not Be a Source of Profit

As young people in and around the care system, we know how important it is that every child has access to safe, stable and high-quality care when they cannot live at home.

Across the country, councils are struggling with the rising cost of children's residential care. While the number of children needing residential placements has increased, the cost of those placements has risen even faster.

Many children's homes are now run by private companies, and some of these companies are making significant profits from caring for vulnerable children and young people. This means that money which could be reinvested into improving services and opportunities for children is instead leaving the care system as profit.

The shortage of placements also means that councils often have little choice about where children are placed. Too many young people are moved far away from their families, friends, schools and communities because suitable local placements are not available.

As young people, we believe that children in care should be seen as children first, not as opportunities for financial gain.

We believe:
Every child deserves safe, stable and loving care.
Public money should be used to improve the lives and outcomes of children and young people.
Greater openness is needed around how residential care providers set their prices and make their profits.
Local authorities need more affordable, high-quality placements available close to young people's communities.
National government has a responsibility to ensure that the care system works in the best interests of children and young people.
Therefore, we ask this Council Resolves To:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern about the growing cost of children's residential care and the impact this is having on councils and young people.
- Call on Government to increase transparency from private residential care providers, including clearer reporting on costs, profits and ownership arrangements.
- Support stronger national oversight of the children's residential care market to ensure fair pricing, accountability and value for public money.
- Encourage greater investment in not-for-profit, charitable and local authority-run children's homes so that more young people can be cared for close to home.
- Share this motion with the Local Government Association, Greater Manchester partners and neighbouring councils to encourage wider support for reform.

As children in care and care experienced young people, we want a care system that puts children

before profit. We want public money to be spent on improving lives, creating opportunities and providing the best possible care. We ask Oldham Council to stand with us in calling for a fairer, more transparent and more sustainable care system for all children and young people.

"Children in care are not a business. They are young people who deserve the very best care and support that society can provide."

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026	

Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday)

The submission must be signed by at least one Member

On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk