

Petition: Exempt care leavers from paying council tax

Petition from Councillor Claire Richards, Castle Division and Councillor Jocelynn Scutt, Arbury Division:

Evidence shows that care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group when they move into independent accommodation; they can face depression, anxiety and even homelessness. (<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaign-for-change/a-fairer-start-for-care-leavers>). Shouldn't we do all we can to protect our children in care, as we would our own children, from such experiences until they are able to care for themselves?

According to the Children's Society, more than a third of councils have exempted care leavers from paying council tax or in the process of doing so. These include authorities such as Lancashire, Herefordshire and Norfolk and city councils such as Cambridge City Council. Yet Cambridgeshire's Children and Young People Committee met on September 11th 2018 and voted against developing a scheme exempting care leavers from paying council tax and Cambridgeshire's conservative-led County Council Full Council met on 16 Oct 2018 and failed to pass Labour's motion calling on Cambridgeshire County Council to develop such a scheme.

Please sign our petition to call upon Cambridgeshire County Council to

(i) consult with non-unitary and unitary authorities who exempt or who are in the process of exempting care leavers from paying council tax so that the County Council can adopt best practice in this context.

(ii) join those non-unitary and unitary authorities in leading the way nationally on exempting care leavers from paying council tax.

The petition has now closed. It attracted 13 signatures.