

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING –23rd JANUARY 2023

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- 1. To consider the following cross party motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Camron Aref-Adib and which was seconded by Councillors Tom Simon, Gio Spinella and Sian Berry.**

Council notes:

- That Camden is proud of its vibrancy and diversity, and its history of welcoming refugees and displaced people from around the world fleeing conflict, climate change, inequality, discrimination and violence;
- That as a Council we will protect and stand up for those travelling to this country to make a better life for themselves and their families, and champion the contribution of refugees and immigrants to our Borough and our nation;
- That this Council and our communities have continued to commit time, resources and capacity to providing homes and support to refugees and displaced people arriving in Camden – including rehousing the largest number of Syrian refugee families in London in 2016, over 600 Afghan families arriving in August 2021 (with now just over 60 remaining in Bridging Hotel provision) and supporting over 200 Ukrainian households through Homes for Ukraine;
- That the Council is working closely with Government to ensure that adequate resources are provided to local government to properly support refugees and displaced people in our Borough including funding for care, advice, housing and skills and employment support;
- That the Council is housing and resettling 20 Afghan households through our Camden pledge scheme, and working with Government to seek to support more of those who want to remain in Camden and make it their home;
- That this Council is committed to reviewing our services, our policies and practice to ensure that refugees are welcomed and supported in our Borough – whether they are here for one day or the rest of their lives.

Council welcomes:

- The work of our residents and community partners to provide services, support, care and advice to refugees and displaced people arriving in our Borough – noting that the Council could not provide an effective welcome and support offer to refugees without the active support and participation of our partners in our communities;
- The growing movement of Boroughs across London and the country becoming Boroughs of Sanctuary;

- The work of our voluntary and community sector in providing services directly to refugees arriving in the Borough, including Hopscotch who provided clothes and essentials to refugees arriving in our Borough with little or no belongings.

Council celebrates:

- Our refugees, immigrants, new arrivals in our Borough – their economic, social and community contribution to making Camden the dynamic and thriving place that it is;
- The cross-party resolve of the Council's elected members to provide a welcoming civic community for refugees and displaced people in Camden;
- The Council's commitment to review our services, policies and practices to become a Borough of Sanctuary, and actively participate in the national best practice sharing network.

Council resolves to:

- Build on the resolve and commitment of our staff and partners to provide real sanctuary and support to refugees and displaced people in our Borough;
- Work with key partners, commissioned services, and our voluntary and community sector to achieve Borough of Sanctuary accreditation, working to create a welcoming and collaborative Borough and celebrate the contribution of those seeking sanctuary;
- Conduct a review and implement a cross Council strategy that provides training and channel resources to deliver an accessible service to all those seeking sanctuary.

2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Gio Spinella and which was seconded by Councillor Andrew Parkinson

Red Routes were originally designed in London to allow for easier motor travel across central London. This traffic is primarily commercial and public transport, with private travel- often by elderly and families- a distant third.

Red routes therefore are to be considered as an essential communication artery across the city, including Finchley Road.

Rising traffic levels put pressure on Red Routes as these roads are 57% more polluted than the London average, with more and more local travel using them. Red Routes also have a higher amount of accidents and fatalities on them. Measures to reduce traffic levels have targeted less busy roads and have often resulted in more traffic being pushed on to the Red Routes.

The Mayor of London's plans to impose a 20 MPH speed limit on these routes are therefore inadequate to address these concerns. Slower speed limits will increase journey times, thus adding to congestion and air pollution while damaging

businesses and lengthening journeys on buses and cabs, not to mention individuals. This measure will not reduce the amount of traffic but will encourage more rat runs and lead to hundreds more fines. It is therefore an indirect form of revenue raising.

This Council therefore calls on the Mayor to suspend his plans to impose a 20 mph speed limit on Finchley Road and other Red routes and provide a more comprehensive plan to address London's traffic issues.

3. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Izzy Lenga and which was seconded by Councillor Lotis Bautista

This Council notes:

The ongoing health crisis across the NHS and the social care sector this winter, and the impact on Camden residents who are reporting long waits for ambulances, GP appointments, cancer treatment and gridlock in A&E departments.

The pressure this is putting on healthcare staff who are showing huge resilience and commitment to supporting residents.

That over 12 years of Conservative government has created this crisis through failure to deliver proper investment in primary care, in social care and in public health interventions that can support people to live well and reduce the pressures on hospitals.

That the NHS and social care sector is yet to fully recover from the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

That as a result of this Conservative government's mismanagement and neglect of the NHS, there are now over 7.2 million patients on an NHS waiting list in England alone. There are over 2 million patients waiting more than a month for a GP appointment across England and over 40% of cancer patients in England are not beginning treatment within two months - missing key national targets.

That recruitment and retention of staff in the NHS and in the social care sector is at breaking point and morale is at an all-time low. The Government has failed to address the vacancy crisis facing the NHS, with over 100,000 staff vacancies this winter.

That NHS nurses seeking a fair pay deal have been forced to resort to strike action for the first time in history.

That from 2015 the Government introduced an ongoing programme of public health funding cuts. In 2019-20, London's share of the Public Health Grant had fallen to £630 million, representing a per head funding reduction from £80.75 in 2015 to £68.61 in 2019, a fall of 15% and the biggest regional reduction in England. The transfer of responsibilities from the NHS to boroughs means we are seeing transformative results emerging around HIV and sexual health, where innovation and

borough collaboration is delivering dividends. Councils could do so much more with adequate funding.

That in Camden our dedicated health and care staff are working hard to protect residents as much as possible from these national trends.

This Council further notes:

Camden Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, formally adopted in March 2022, puts tackling inequalities through prevention and early intervention at its centre, drawing on Professor Michael Marmot's work on the social determinants of health and this is informed by Camden's Health and Care Citizen's Assembly.

Camden Council works hard to put residents at the heart of decision making, such as Camden's Community and Covid-19 Health Champions and the Health and Care Citizens Assembly. Their experiences of the health and care system have greatly informed the development of our new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Camden is a Living Wage employer and signed up to the Ethical Care Charter to support the terms and conditions of care workers in the borough.

Camden is taking a strengths-based approach to adult social care, built around the idea that people are the experts in their own lives, that they have strength and resources of their own, and with some support and connection can retain independence. As a result of this approach, 75% of people who contacted adult social care have been supported to meet their needs, connect with their community, and build on their strengths without the need to access long term care and support.

Camden Council has opened the new Charlie Ratchford Court, our first council-run, state of the art extra care sheltered scheme.

Camden Council is working closely with NHS partners to make sure people don't stay in hospital longer than they need to. Camden worked in collaboration with acute partners at the Royal Free Hospital and University College London Hospital to establish an Integrated Discharge Team (IDT) which is improving hospital discharge in Camden.

Camden Council is investing in improving support for those facing mental health crisis. This includes commissioning a jointly funded crisis cafe delivered from the Hopscotch building on Hampstead Road, piloting a new multi-agency integrated approach to community based mental health support for adults in Kentish Town South and Central Primary Care Networks. Camden is also supporting a multi-agency social prescribing group which is chaired by Voluntary Action Camden and Holborn Community Association; and includes Age UK Camden, Likewise, and Mind in Camden.

This Council calls on:

The Government to adopt Labour's 10-year plan to deliver the biggest expansion of the NHS workforce in its history.

The Government to recognise the need for parity of esteem between peoples need for social care and their need for healthcare and to address the urgent need for effective, sustainable, and affordable care and support for people of all ages through proper investment and policy reform.

The Government to provide a long-term funding settlement for local government that can support the work of Camden and other local councils to invest fully in a range of public services that address the wider determinants of health, and in early help services, thus reducing the need for and easing the pressures on the NHS.

The Government to negotiate, not legislate - ending industrial action across the NHS and delivering a fair pay deal for all NHS staff this winter.

4. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Judy Dixey and which was seconded by Councillor Tom Simon

This Council notes with sadness the death of the homeless woman known as 'Maria' in Kentish Town on 3rd January. This should give us all great concern for people sleeping rough on the streets of Camden.

The CHAIN reports from the Greater London Authority show that rough sleeping in Camden is on the rise. In 2021-22, 666 people were seen sleeping rough in the borough, a 6% increase on the previous year. This is compared to a decrease of 25% in London as a whole for that year. The first two quarters of 2022-23 saw increases in Camden of 15% compared to the same periods in 2021-22. London as a whole saw similar increases.

This Council further notes the temporary success of the 'everyone in' policy during the pandemic in getting rough sleepers off the streets. It also notes the success of Finland's 'Housing First' policy in almost eradicating rough sleeping in that country.

This Council believes that high levels of rough sleeping are not inevitable. With the right approach at a national and local level the phenomenon of rough sleepers dying on our streets should become a thing of the past.

This Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Better Homes to (a) to review rough sleeper deaths in the borough to see what lessons we can learn and (b) review best practice from across the UK and the EU in tackling rough sleeping and preventing deaths.

This Council also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request better resources to tackle rough sleeping and a shift in national policy to a 'Housing First' model.

ENDS