

MOTION ON NOTICE

20 March 2017



Housing cost element of Universal Credit: withdrawing entitlement from 18-21 year olds

Council notes the government introduction of "The Universal Credit (Housing Costs Element for claimants aged 18 to 21) (Amendment) Regulations 2017".

Council acknowledges the concerns raised by homelessness charities and private sector landlords associations about the impact that this Regulation will have.

Council is concerned that the government is unable to provide information about the numbers of young people in Plymouth who will be subject to the Regulation and has refused to publish the Equalities Impact Assessment.

Council resolves:

1. That the Chief Executive write to the Minister responsible requesting the release of the Equalities Impact Assessment in order to facilitate planning for local service provision.
2. That the Chief Executive prepares and publishes a report by the end of April on the potential impact of this regulation on young people in Plymouth and the services that support them including, but not limited to: the number of young people likely to be impacted and the value of the withdrawn benefit, together with cumulative information on other (previous and planned) changes to welfare and benefit payments for this age group; the potential impact on homelessness services and the actions the Council will take to mitigate this; the potential additional burdens this will put on support for households involved in Families with a Future and the potential costs to the programme; the potential impact on support required from youth services in Plymouth and how these will be resourced; and the potential impact on local private sector landlords and their businesses.
3. That the relevant Scrutiny Panel considers the Chief Executive's report and makes any recommendations to Cabinet or Council it feels appropriate.

Proposed by Cllr Kate Taylor

Seconded by Cllr Chris Penberthy