

Madam Chair and Councillors,

My name is Terry Galloway and I'm leading the campaign nationally to make care experience a protected characteristic in UK legislation.

I was at a funeral one time. Just so you know, I grew up in care myself and by the time I left care I lived in over 100 places. It wasn't great, but I did in the end make a life for myself.

I run several businesses right now, but I was at a funeral with my sister where somebody obviously sadly passed away and she was really ill and by that time she lost her children to the care system, which is what quite often happens.

My brother also lost his children to the care system. And we are now talking after this funeral and she's really ill, she's depressed and she is thin and she is saying to me, Terry I don't want to be next.

Unfortunately for care experienced people we are 70% more likely than any other group to die prematurely, 50% of the young people in prison are from care, 25% of the homeless population are from care.

I am having this conversation with my sister and all I can do to try and give her some hope is basically say let's use our trauma, let's use what we have been through to change the care system so that those coming after us don't have to go through the same thing.

Unfortunately, she was next and several months later her boyfriend killed her and that was the end of her. So that's why I am kind of here on my own.

But what I want you guys to reflect on is when you see a headline, when you see a tragedy and you know, Please ask yourself and think behind that headline: is there a care experience person.

Because the likelihood is that there is, this is an issue for the whole of society. Obviously, you guys have corporate parenting responsibilities, you guys have the statutory responsibility, but this is for everybody, this is for the whole of society and that's why it needs to come into legislation.

So, for me, if you guys can pass this motion tonight and you can pass it unanimously and not have it as a political, political thing, and really join together. You know you will be the 82<sup>nd</sup> council across the United

Kingdom, that's over 26 million people are now living in an area that treats its care experienced people as if it was protected characteristic.

What you have got to remember as well. Is that every care experienced person costs the state £1.2 million and once we all take responsibility, that cost is going to reduce, and we are going to have a better society for all. Thank you.