

CABINET

2 MARCH 2021

DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX RELIEF FOR CARE LEAVERS – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rupert Turpin, Portfolio Holder for Business Management
Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer
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Summary

This addendum report provides further clarity in relation to the proposed discretionary council tax relief policy for care leavers.

The policy has been amended to show that it applies to care leavers where Medway Council is the corporate parent, and the care leaver is liable to pay council tax outside of Medway. The amendments also confirm that where the bill is passed to the Leaving Care team for payment, they will ensure that all appropriate reductions have been awarded by the billing authority.

The policy also clarifies that where the corporate parent is not Medway Council, Revenue and Benefits will check whether the authority that is the corporate parent has applied any local council tax policies in relation to care leavers.

For ease of reference the changes are tracked into Appendix 1 to the addendum report. These are shown at paragraphs 2.1, 6.1 and 6.2.

1. Revised Recommendations

- 1.1. The Cabinet is asked approve the implementation of Option 3, set out at paragraph 3.3 of the main report together with the discretionary council tax relief policy for care leavers set out in Appendix 1 to the addendum report from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 1.2. The Cabinet is asked to note that, if agreed, this policy will be reviewed annually, and any proposed changes referred to cabinet for consideration.

2. Suggested reason for decision

- 2.1. As the corporate parent to care leavers, Medway Council has the responsibility to provide financial support and guidance.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised discretionary council tax relief policy for care leavers (with tracked changes)