

EE18. Motion

On 9 May 2018, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, Council referred the following motion proposed by Councillor Collie, to the Education Executive:-

Family Cap

Council notes with concern the implementation of the two child limit for tax credits for children born after 05/04/17 and for new claims for Universal Credit, and in particular notes concerns over the so-called "rape clause" which, in order to receive financial support for a third child, forces women to disclose sexual violence at a time and context not of their own choosing.

Council therefore agrees to:

- (1) write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the concern of members of Falkirk Council and seek assurances that comprehensive equality impact assessment, fully exploring the impact of the family cap and the cumulative impact of social security changes on women, children, families and equality groups, have been carried out and that impact will continue to be closely monitored;
- (2) write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities to seek assurances that the Scottish Government will commission ongoing national and local analysis of the impact of the family cap on key shared policy priorities such as equality, in work poverty, child poverty and health and wellbeing outcomes; and
- (3) instruct the Chief Executive to ensure the training needs of Falkirk Council staff across all departments are considered, in particular for advice and social work, to be able to approach the issue of non consensual conception of a third child with women who are making benefit claims, including appropriate referral routes, and any additional resources that required to be allocated or commissioned; and provide this report to the next full Council.

In terms of Standing Order 31.2, Councillor Collie spoke in support of her motion.

Councillor Collie, seconded by Councillor Murtagh, moved the terms of the motion.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed the motion.