

Model motion to adopt parental leave – Labour Group (Wales)

This Labour Group notes:

- That in 2017 the EHRC found in their “Who runs Wales” report that on average across Wales that only 26% of councillors are women, and only 9% of Council leaders are women;
- That as of the 2018 local elections, only 26 out of 119 Labour councils and only 33 out of 130 opposition Labour Groups are led by women;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- That the equalities section of the Labour Party Democracy Review mandates all Labour councils and Labour Groups to introduce a parental leave policy for to cover their group and their council as applicable;
- That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;
- That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt;
- That this motion is in line with the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act, and is another step in creating a more Equal Wales.

This Labour Group resolves:

- To adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group’s Women’s Taskforce to give Labour councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting;
- To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;
- To take a motion to full council to adopt the policy so that parental leave is available to all councillors, regardless of the political party they are a member of;
- To notify the LGA Labour Group that we have passed the parental leave policy as a Labour Group and that a motion will be taken to full council to pass a parental leave policy as a council.