

Motions received for 15 September 2022 Full Council

Golden Motion (Conservative)

'SEND' SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEILLANCE

"This Council remains extremely disturbed over the confirmed actions of local government officers being engaged in the compiling or collating of social media posts belonging to private individuals.

These controversial retrievals, involving the cross-referencing of tweets, photos and Facebook entries made by two prominent SEND campaigners and leading members of the Bristol Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) was profoundly ill-conceived.

The selective monitoring of those who have been 'rightly' critical of the Authority's SEND provision was also, arguably, contrary to the spirit of family law and associated statutory guidelines designed to foster confidence and promote the 'co-production, collaboration and partnership working' with those families who rely on these services.

Council believes that such data harvesting by officialdom is not an appropriate use of limited resources, has caused serious reputational damage and harmed particularly sensitive community relations. Moreover, Council is unhappy with this matter being concluded via an internal investigation i.e. effectively the bureaucracy marking its own homework.

In the interests of true transparency, the Mayor is called upon to agree to hold a genuinely independent inquiry, conducted by the LGA or similar appropriate body into all the facts, faults and failings surrounding this incident. The findings of that external body, together with any recommendations of best practice, must then be brought back to Full Council to determine the best way forward towards rebuilding recklessly broken relationships."

Bristol Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) have provided a vital voice for parents within the SEND process but on 21st July the administration wrote to BPCF, other SEND groups, the Department of Education, and Contact informing them that they would not support the continued funding of BPCF with the parent participation grant of £17,500.

Full Council calls on the Administration to issue a new letter to the Department of Education, Contact, and BPCF making it clear that Bristol Council will sign the new contract and to ensure that BPCF are included in all coproduction, as previously, so that the council and BPCF can work to build trust and cooperation.

Golden Motion to be moved by Councillor Geoff Gollop (Conservative)

Received 1 September