

## **Notice of Motion - submitted by Councillor Hilary McGuill**

### **Home Schooling**

Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that home educated children are at greater risk of neglect or abuse than children who are educated at school and a parents decision to home educate is not in itself a ground for concern about the safety and well being of the child, we are appalled by the murder of Sara Sharif and the horrific abuse that she suffered whilst being home educated.

We recognise that Sara was known to agencies and the existing systems available to protect children however we believe that further safeguards need to be put in place to support and protect children.

We therefore ask Welsh Government to link with Westminster to develop legislation that creates a register of ALL children who are home educated. Importantly this MUST include those children of school age who have never attended a school. There is an urgent need to introduce a unique identification number for children across the services similar to an adult NI number that is allocated at birth. This will help join up relevant data and bring visibility and support to all children.

We also request the legislation includes systems to bring consistency of approach where a child or identified risks to the child make it unsafe for home schooling.