

## **WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP**

**Notice of Motion from Councillor Harry Cartmill  
for the Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

### ***Asthma Inhalers to be part of every Commercial Kitchens First Aid Kit Adopting “Lauren’s Law”***

Every day asthma inhalers are for some in our communities a deceptively simple but absolutely vital medical device making the literal difference of life and death to those who have asthma and who can suffer debilitating attacks.

One such person was 19 year old kitchen worker Lauren Reid who suffered a severe asthma attack at work in a commercial kitchen in Glasgow City Centre back in February 2019 – tragically Lauren had left her inhaler at home on this fateful day and with no inhalers required in first aid kits used by the commercial kitchen sector trained first aiders on the scene could do nothing whatsoever to help Lauren – by the time Paramedics arrived Lauren had gone into cardiac arrest and never regained consciousness dying four days later.

Lauren Reid’s heartbroken Mother Elaine Cunningham has started a campaign to honour the memory of her daughter and to make sure no other family loses a loved one in this way by promoting “Lauren’s Law” – a campaign to have every commercial kitchen throughout the UK carry an asthma inhaler as part of their first aid kit by law.

I was contacted by Elaine and I must say as a father of a daughter around the same age as Lauren Reid I was close to tears reading of this tragedy but equally motivated to doing what I could to make sure we here in West Lothian Council take steps to adopt “Lauren’s Law” in both council run commercial kitchens such as Howden Park Centre and to the many we issue Licences and Permits to also.

The cost of incorporating an asthma inhaler in commercial kitchens first aid kits is miniscule – already (rightly) our schools and colleges have these inhalers as part of every first aid Kit available – so to I understand do the offshore industries and sectors of the construction industries – commercial kitchens should be next in line with the hope that soon every first aid Kit has an inhaler within.

Council therefore agrees to have officers draft a paper to present at their earliest convenience to the Health and Care PDSP outlining proposals to incorporate “Lauren’s Law” with an aim of making it mandatory for every commercial kitchen in West Lothian under council ownership or jurisdiction to have an asthma inhaler as part of their first aid kit.



Received on 8 Nov 2021 at 11:17am



**Councillor Harry Cartmill  
West Lothian Labour Group**