

Item No. 9	Classification: Open	Date: February 3 2009	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Participation Action Plan 2009/10	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Rory Patterson Assistant Director of Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Note and approve the strategy (Appendix 1) to promote participation of looked after children to the London Borough of Southwark.
2. To note and approve participation action plan for 2009/10. (Appendix 2).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Every Child Matters and Care Matters outline the key benefits and principles of children and young people in public care being able to shape their own care plans and general service provision.
4. Southwark is required to have a participation strategy for looked after children which outlines how meaningful inclusion, consultation and participation will be delivered.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Southwark has a children's rights officer post established to support the delivery of an effective participation strategy for looked after children.
6. Southwark has a standing participation group for young people in care known as "Speakerbox". Speakerbox meets on a monthly basis at Peckham Pulse and produces a termly magazine which is sent to all young people in Southwark's care.
7. Care Matters and Every Child Matters have applied specific duties and responsibilities upon councilors and lead members to promote positive outcomes for looked after children and to specifically engage in a dialogue with young people in care to shape services.
8. Speakerbox will continue to meet with the Corporate Parenting Committee on a bi-annual basis to share ideas, identify issues and monitor progress.
9. Senior management from the CLA Service will meet with Speakerbox on a bi-annual basis to track implementation of the annual action plan and to act as a forum to identify issues and develop effective practice solutions.
10. The agreed annual action plan will bring together all the various strands of participation activity, ranging from statutory requirements to specific projects

identified with Speakerbox or in partnership with the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Policy implications

11. There are no specific issues relating to new policy outlined in this document.

Community Impact Statement

12. It is recognised that young people who have been actively engaged in shaping and taking responsibility for their futures are more able to manage living independently in the community and make a positive contribution to Southwark in their adult lives.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13. A participation strategy is delivered within the current budget allocations to the children looked after service.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services

14. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Finance Director

15. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Children's Specialist Services Children Looked After Participation Strategy 2009-2011
Appendix 2	Participation Strategy Action Plan 2009/10

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding		
Report Author	Chris Saunders, Head of Services for Children in Care and Chair of ICS / CareFirst Board.		
Version	final		
Dated	22/1/09		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER			
	Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
	Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	Yes	Yes
	Finance Director	Yes	Yes

Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team		February 23 2009