

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 4 October 2016

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Tabled documents

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6.	Review: Local Offer for Care Leavers	1 - 17
	Two presentations are enclosed – one on 'Our offer for Care Leavers' and the other is a presentation from Speakerbox.	

Contact

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Our offer for Care Leavers

Supporting Transitions into Adulthood

Andrew Fowler, Head of Service, Children in Care and Care Leavers



@lb_southwark



facebook.com/southwarkcouncil



Our Care Leavers Need Parents too

Corporate Parenting for young adults



@lb_southwark



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Not always an easy journey



Looked After Children

- 476 Children in Care
- 324 of “Our Children” are with the Care Service
- 27 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- 69 17 year olds

Care Leavers over 18

- We keep on caring for Our Children
- Realignment of Care Service
- Care Leaver's Champion: Practice Group Lead (Leaving Care Service)
- 4 Specialist practice Groups: Personal Advisors and Social Workers
- 339 Care Leavers
- 43 Care leavers with Care Service Social Workers (to age 19)
- 296 Care Leavers with Leaving Care Social Workers and Personal Advisors

Where our Care Leavers Live

Type of accommodation	Number
Parents/relatives	36
Community home/residential	9
Semi independent /transitional	89
Supported lodgings	9
Deported	1
Ordinary lodgings with no formal support	4
No fixed abode/homeless	1
Foyer/similar supported lodgings	9
Independent living	80
Emergency accommodation	1
Other accommodation	8
Former foster carers	66

Housing and Accommodation

- Following assessment, Care Leavers are offered a priority Housing Nomination
- Supported accommodation to continue preparation for independence
- Support Workers can be agreed to support transitions
- Care leavers are entitled to a Setting Up home grant of £2,000 when gaining their permanent tenancy

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EET and NEET

- Specialist Employment Advisor / Practice Group Leader
- Profiles of each young person completed by allocated worker
- Now established an expert panel of local providers
- Working towards doing the same for Care Leavers Out Of Borough
- Further Education Bursary: PC, Printer, Annual: £200 Registration, Transport £300
- Higher Education (University) Bursary: Travel £350, Books £100, Vacation Accommodation £1750
- 39 in University
- IT suite for Young people at Talfourd Place

Financial Support

- Pending Benefits Claims
- If ineligible for benefits
- Emergency support / unexpected circumstances
- Deposits and rent payments for privately rented accommodation (e.g. Out Of Borough Care Leavers)
- Higher / Further education

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Health

- Health summaries becoming available for our Care Leavers (including physical health and emotional well being).
- Clinical Practitioners – embedded in Care Service
- Specialist substance misuse drop in
- CHYP (Children & Young Peoples Health Partnership) - through innovations funding - looking at proposal to provide specialist training for Personal Advisors around Care Leavers with additional vulnerabilities –e.g. mental health

Personal Advisor's

- Personal Advisors case loads have been reduced to 20 – 25
- Located together in 4 Specialist Practice Groups
- Training: Developing ideas around core training
- Substance Misuse
- Pathway Planning
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Benefits

Care Panel

- **Meets weekly:** Chaired by Assistant Director (Corporate Parenting) and Head of Service (Care).
- Ensures that all our Children and specifically our Care Leavers have planning of their placements / Transitions at the fore
- Care leavers move from foster care (if not Staying Put) to semi independent /key worker supported provision, to more independent accommodation through to their own tenancies.
- Panel also provides Quality Assurance: scrutiny of visits, reviews and Pathway Planning by the AD and HOS.

Summary of Key Partners

- Employment / Education Advisor
- Benefit's advisor
- Virtual School
- Housing
- Commissioning / Brokerage
- Substance misuse worker
- Advocacy services through Banardos.
- Speakerbox.
- Transitions Service / Adults

Adding Value

- Summer scheme this year for Care leavers: Food, Activities, Hearing their Voices: Opportunity to engage with them in looking at services for the future to ensure we are shaping services they want and need
- Hearing: what we could have done better as well as what we have done well.
- Support from our office for those in Crisis: Food, Clothes, Showers, washing / drying of clothes, temporary storage of property.

Where we need to be: Ambition

- Stable, permanent and skilled workforce
- Harness expertise through dedicated Care Leaving Service
- Good Pathway Plans
- Developing The Talfourd Hub: Multi agency partners in one place at one time (December 2016)
- Expand opportunities through the Virtual School for college and other provision.
- Close tracking of NEET and multi- partner Interventions and supporting EET
- Tracking Transitions: 17+ Tracking Group chaired by Head Of Service, with representative Personal Advisor, Social Worker and Practice Group Lead Champion (November 2016)
- Improving our health offer through the LAC nurse – well person checks in dedicated room at the Talfourd Hub
- Engaging hard to reach young people
- Opportunities for group work activity – cooking, budgeting, improving independence
- More effective working from our Clinical Practitioners concentrating on 18+ and out of borough.

Getting where we need to be...

- Drop in for care leavers where case closed – ability to signpost / support (November 2016)
- Co production by young people
- Weekend activities for Care Leavers (November / December 2016)
- Expand leisure opportunities at weekends with support from contracted provider
- Review of social work duty team for Care Leavers will remove the appointment system – ready access by young people to Personal Advisors and Social Workers (November / December 2016)
- Forums for Care Leavers in conjunction with Speakerbox to design and review services
- Developing a Care Leaver Covenant.
- Consultations: Listening and doing what is needed

Care Leavers – at the centre of what we do



SPEAKERBOX

Children's Rights and
participation



What is Speakerbox?

- o Speakerbox is a group that gives a voice to Children in care & Care Leavers.
- o To help make life better for Children in care & Care Leavers.
 - We inform young people of their rights
 - Help young people to make more informed decisions about care
 - Have fun while building relationships

Who works with Speakerbox?

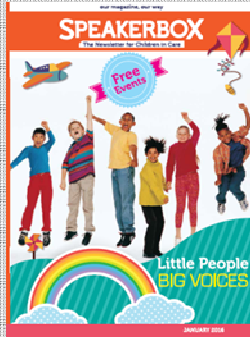
- o A Children's Rights and participation worker
- o A Speakerbox project worker
- o An apprentice – sometimes a care leaver!
- o Barnados provide an advocacy service for all young people in care and care leavers

The things we do!

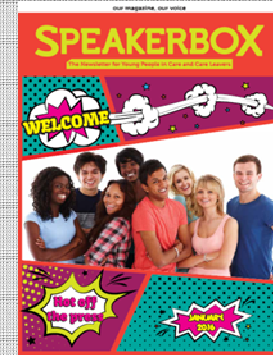
- We send out a quarterly magazines to over 700 young people. This has all information about Speakerbox, advocacy, events and contact numbers.
- There is a sensory garden project that we are running at Talfourd and will be running throughout the half terms.
- We run residential in half terms where we take young people to activity camp sites.
- We also run day trips out for all age groups Primary, Secondary and care leavers.
- Crisis support

A few more things we do

- Speakerbox runs workshops and consultations on a number of topics for the young people to get involved in.
- We produced a guide for care Leavers
- Last year we hosted the annual awards ceremonies for children in care.
- Organise and host the Children in care Council.



Magazine

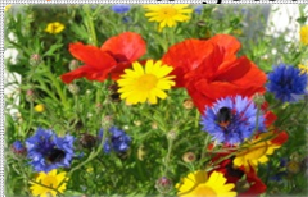


- This is sent out to over 700 children in care.
- Provides information on Speakerbox, Banardo's and up coming events that each young person can attend.
- There is also a wide range of contact numbers provided to help young people.
- This is a great way to provide information in a fun way for all young people.

Sensory Garden



- o We have regenerated the garden in Talfourd to make this a sensory garden
- o Planting a range of different flowers
- o Painting walls, floors and steps
- o We aim to get the whole garden sensory covering all 5 senses.
- o It's a place all young people can call their own, where they can make new friends and feel safe.
- o It's a great place where all ages can come together and have some fun!
- o 60 young people attending across one week in Summer
- o 15 volunteers from across the organisation supporting the scheme.
- o Around half of the young people were care leavers (remaining were primary and secondary)
- o Barnardos and Young Minds attending and taking referrals.
- o A targeted emotional health session with Young Minds.



Residential/Trips



- o This is where we whisk the young people off for an activity week or weekend where there is nothing but fun.
- o We do these in the half term weeks and aim to take up to 12 young people.
- o In the half term weeks we also arrange day trips out for certain age groups - primary, secondary and care leavers.
- o In this picture is where 2 Speakerbox members had to the chance to meet Flawless dance crew and go back stage of Peter Pan.
- o In 2014 care leavers had the amazing opportunity to go New York.

Help lines, Chicken & Chat, Barnardo's and Crisis

- These are a number of services that we offer to all young people.
- Help lines are provided if a young person needs additional support.
- Chicken and chat is where we will meet you anytime or place have some food and chat.
- Barnardo's is the advocacy team we use at Speakerbox.
- Crisis support is where we help with arrears, safety with accommodation as well emotional are unhappy with your placement.



Workshops/Consultations

- We offer a range of workshop's and consultations on different topics to help young people for example; 'Getting Vexed', On Relationships, Drug & Alcohol and safety and keeping safe.
- These have been very successful with a great turn out of young people participating.
- This is a chance for young people to attend and tell us how they are feeling, so we can provide them with the right support.
- We work alongside young minds in delivering these services, which as given us a chance to help inform and help a number of young people.

Emotional Health

- We have run some great workshops and consultations related to emotional health which include resilience, mental health, and health.
- We have had a great response to these with great numbers of young people attending.
- These workshops are a chance for young people to come forward and ask questions as well as professions providing information.
- If any young person has any concerns or worries ways to deal with any issues they are facing.



Award ceremony

- This was a great opportunity to celebrate all young people in care.
- We celebrated achievements under the categories of; Sports, education, peer leadership, personal achievement and creative achievement.
- We had young people hosting, singing dancing and playing the guitar.
- We also run a mental health workshop in the space provided as well as a fun photo booth for all to have fun in.
- This was a great evening with loads of fun, laughter and celebration.



Young Inspectors

- This is for care leavers to get involved with commissioning and report on the quality of semi independent accommodation.
- We check the safety and wellbeing of the young people.
- Report to commissioning any issues with the accommodation.
- This is a chance to get Care leavers involved and make a change.



New

Belongings



- Was a project for care leavers
- Balanced feedback from care leavers. Our areas we are focusing on are; Pathway planning, accommodation, hard to reach young people and mental health.
- We conduct surveys for care leavers to help us tackle things that need improving.
- One of the main components of the project is completing a consultation with care leavers to understand what they would like to improve in Southwark.
 - 1) Wanting more preparation and skills training for being an independent and happy adult
 - 2) Quality and location of placement
 - 3) Concern over entitlements
 - 4) Disengagement or no knowledge of personal pathway plan

Children in care Council

- o Local authority function as corporate parents for children in care and care leavers.
- o Our aim is to care for the young people in a way that a parent would care for their own children.
- o We get young people together to have meetings with councillors to talk about issues and good things about being in care.
- o This runs on a termly basis and is a chance for children in care and care leavers to say what they think and what they want Southwark Council to improve or strengthen.

Young People & What we have achieved

- o This past year has been a great year for young people and trying to make a change. We have raised a few themes with the children in care council;
- o Relationships with foster carers
- o Feeling safe in Southwark
- o Quality of accommodation
- o Pocket money and financial allowances
- o Work and training opportunities for children in care and care leavers.
- o Support for young mothers.
- o What a good foster carer looks like.
- o Guide for care leavers was produced
- o The 11 golden rules was drawn up!

Thank you for watching!

- o We hope you enjoyed learning about what Speakerbox is about.
- o Thank you for attending our presentation.
- o If you have any questions, please ask!

SPEAKERBOX