

## Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday 18 February 2010  
1.00 pm  
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

### Membership

Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)  
Councillor Veronica Ward (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Barrie Hargrove  
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki  
Councillor Eliza Mann  
Councillor Lewis Robinson  
Councillor Althea Smith  
Barbara Hills  
Chris Sanford

### Reserves

Councillor James Barber  
Councillor John Friary  
Councillor Michelle Holford  
Councillor Caroline Pidgeon  
Councillor Sandra Rhule

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## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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### Contact

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Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

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Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

**Annie Shepperd**

Chief Executive

Date: 9 February 2010



# Corporate Parenting Committee

18 February 2010  
1.00 pm  
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

## Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>MOBILE PHONES</b>	
	Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.	
	<b>PART A - OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.	
3.	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
4.	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>	
	Members to declare any personal interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
5.	<b>MINUTES</b>	1 - 4
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on Thursday November 26 2009.	

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
6.	<b>ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICES - APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME FOR CARE LEAVERS</b>	5 - 11
7.	<b>ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICES - CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE</b>	12 - 16
8.	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE REVIEW</b>	17 - 36
9.	<b>SPEAKERBOX UPDATES</b>	37 - 77
10.	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS PLAN</b>	78 - 117
11.	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2010</b>	118 - 120

**ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

**PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS**

**ANY OTHER CLOSED BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.**

Date: 9 February 2010



## Corporate Parenting Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Thursday November 26 2009 at 1.00 pm held at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair)  
Councillor Veronica Ward  
Councillor Althea Smith

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** None.

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Rory Patterson (assistant director of specialist services & safeguarding), Chris Saunders (head of children looked after service), Eleanor Parkin (children services), Moira Laydon (advisory team children looked after), Anne-Marie Buchanan (educational psychologist), Bola Roberts and Paula Thornton (constitutional team)

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lewis Robinson, Barrie Hargrove, Barbara Hills and Sarah Feasey.

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as being present were confirmed as the voting members.

### 3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

**5. MINUTES****RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on September 24 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**6. REPORT OF THE SOUTHWARK ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICE****RESOLVED:**

1. That the annual report provided for corporate parenting committee on the Adoption and Fostering Services April 1 2008 – March 31 2009 be noted.

**7. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT****RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted and the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability be endorsed.

**8. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER - 2008/09 ACADEMIC YEAR GCSE RESULTS****RESOLVED:**

1. That the 2009 GCSE results for Southwark looked-after children be noted.
2. That the celebration and award ceremony (class of 2009) held on Thursday October 29 2009 be noted. The committee recorded their thanks to officers involved in this event for their hard work and effort contributing to the success of the evening.

**9. CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN 2009-10****RESOLVED:**

1. That the following changes be made to the committee's work plan for 2009/10:

**February 11 2010**

- Apprenticeship report from Head of Organisational Development.
- Children Missing from Care.
- Children Looked After performance report – latest figures.
- Report on best practice from other authorities and how best corporate parenting committee can support children and young peoples needs.
- Feedback/update from Speakerbox event including issue of name change of

committee.

- The Pledge.
- "Tell it as it was".

### **March 25 2010**

- Children Looked After Performance Indicators 2009-10 Quarter 4
- Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan to support children and care leavers accessing employment, education and training - invites to key figures in apprenticeship schemes including 14-19, Head of Southwark Works and Connexions to hear views.

### **10. ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICE, COACHING SCHEME FOR CARE LEAVERS, EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING CARE LEAVERS**

The success of the mentoring and coaching scheme was noted and the evening organised for participants of the scheme. It was requested that members of corporate parenting committee be invited to the next evening to be organised (where children looked after meet with their matched mentor). It was noted that Councillor Rajan would write to all councillors to make them aware of the scheme in operation.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised and ongoing remit of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for Looked After Children and Care Leavers aged 13-21 be noted.
2. That a report relating to the coaching scheme being delivered for care leavers be received.
3. That a report concerning support for care leavers in achieving education, employment and training opportunities be received.
4. That a report is presented to the next meeting in February 2010 by the head of organisational development on the current apprenticeship scheme, how to secure apprenticeships and the approaches that might yield the best results for children in care/care leavers.

(Note on Apprenticeship report. There was a wide ranging discussion on related issues to this item including identifying who leads on large building contracts to ensure that the children looked after could be included as a target group)

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Adolescent and Aftercare Service Apprenticeship Scheme for Care Leavers	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To receive the annual report relating to the apprenticeship scheme being delivered for care leavers.
2. To note the apprenticeship scheme rests within the remit of the Adolescent and Aftercare Service for Looked After Children and Care Leavers aged 13-21 and Organisational Development Department.
3. To consider what steps might be taken to engage with council departments to promote higher numbers of apprenticeships and to promote specific allocation target of 20% of apprenticeship opportunities offered to care leavers.
4. To note progress of the coaching scheme (as outlined at the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting held on 26 November 2009).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Adolescent and Aftercare Service

5. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service was established in 2007 as part of a single business unit for looked after children and care leavers.

The Adolescent and Aftercare service (A & AC) is one of three services which make up the overall service for children in care and care leavers, these being the:

- Adolescent and Aftercare service
- Services for children in care 0-12
- Adoption & Fostering Services

Each service area is led by a Service Manager consisting of a number of social work teams and support from administration, finance and specialist co-located staff.

6. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service provides the care planning function for looked after children from the age of 13-18 and aftercare support until the young person achieves the age of 21 (24 if attending university/higher education).



7. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service has four teams which provide the full range of services for looked after children and care leavers (13-21). These being:-
- Two teams for children in care aged 13-18
  - An aftercare team for care leavers aged 18-21 (24 if in university or higher education).
  - One team for unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied minor care leavers.
8. The main remit of the Adolescent and Aftercare service is:
- Effective care planning to include health, education, pathway and transition plans
  - Maintain meaningful contact and support for young people who have left care up to age of 21.
  - Deliver support to young people who wish to attend university/higher education up to the age of 24.
  - In partnership with PCT, SLAM and Specialist Health Trusts and DTA deliver effective health interventions to include reducing teenage pregnancy and substance misuse.
  - Deliver specialist partnerships with Police, Community Safety and Youth Offending Services to address issues relating to youth offending including children in care who are on the cusp of crime or associating with gangs.
  - To work alongside colleagues in schools and children's services to narrow the gap relating to attainment especially at Key Stage 4 (GCSE)
  - Deliver a range of interventions post 16 to promote semi independence training including group work, mentoring, life skill training and placement stability.
  - Deliver effective participation arrangements with young people and Speakerbox to improve and shape services.
  - Working in partnership with Southwark housing, supporting people (including Adult Services) and the private sector (commissioned services) deliver appropriate living accommodation for care leavers post 18
  - Deliver an effective strategy to support young people in employment, education or training from the age of 16 -21. Delivered in partnership with Connexions, Southwark works, Southwark College, Council Apprenticeship Scheme and targeted youth support.
  - Provide specialist advice, intervention and support, specific to unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied minors leaving care.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Apprenticeship Scheme**

9. In partnership with Southwark's Organisational Development Department the Looked After Service has developed a protocol to enable care leavers to access the Council's apprenticeship scheme.
10. The Corporate Parenting Committee have endorsed the protocol and have requested that an annual report is submitted each year with regards to development and delivery.
11. Each year the Adolescent and Aftercare Service deliver short preparation courses for care leavers to develop their skills and confidence to meet the shortlisting requirements of Southwark's apprenticeship scheme and to attend for job interviews.
12. In addition, there are close working relationships where the Team Manager from the Aftercare team and a member of Organisational Development meet to discuss any placement issues arising from a care leaver's workplace. It is recognised that care leavers will often require additional support and understanding especially during the initial stages of employment until they adjust to a workplace environment.
13. The annual report provided by John Howard, Head of Organisational Development is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
14. Appendix 1 also provides a brief update of the coaching scheme for care leavers (minutes refer).
15. It should also be noted that the Adolescent and Aftercare Service have developed two further (now three in total) apprenticeship posts within the Service for care leavers as part of the scheme. This is seen as an example of best practice and role modeling for other departments to demonstrate that the establishment of apprenticeships is both feasible and of benefit to an organisation.
16. This report asks if the Corporate Parenting Committee can support and promote the Council's overall apprenticeship scheme and also highlight the benefits to vulnerable groups especially care leavers.

### **Policy implications**

17. There are no new policy implications attached to this report.

### **Resource implications**

18. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service delivers statutory provision for looked after children and is delivered within current resources allocated to the children's looked after service.
19. There are no additional resource implications for the apprenticeship scheme.

### Community impact statement

20. Southwark CLA Service works to promote the 5 outcomes for children in care as outlined in every child matters. It is recognised that placement stability, engagement in education, access to additional activities, linked with health, lifestyles, all contribute to building resilience in young people.
21. The Looked After Children Service recognises that adolescent aftercare may be a concern for the community. The Looked After Children Service has a range of specialist services and staff who provide targeted support.

### Consultation

22. As part of the overall looked after service, the Adolescent and Aftercare Service has a key role in delivering direct involvement of young people in their individual service plan and in evaluating and shaping service delivery.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None to note		

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Apprenticeship scheme progress report - Concurrent report from Head of Organisational Development

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Saunders Head of Services for Children in Care	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	8 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>		8 February 2010

## APPENDIX 1

**Concurrent report from the Head of Organisational Development.****Apprenticeship scheme progress report.**

The recent recruitment campaign for apprenticeships attracted 18 applications from looked after children (a slight increase on previous campaigns). However, at the end of the campaign only one of these 18 applicants was successful in securing an apprenticeship.

The success rates at each stage for the last three campaigns are illustrated below:

LAC	Sept 2007	% of LAC applicants	Feb 2009	% of LAC applicants	Oct 2009	% of LAC applicants
No. of applicants	16		15		18	
No. shortlisted	12	75%	11	73%	12	67%
Passed tests	8	50%	10	67%	6 (1 DNA)	34%
Successful at interview	7 ( 1 DNA)	44%	6	40%	3	17%
Commenced work	7	44%	6	40%	1	5%

The next campaign commences in February 2010. The data in the table above is currently being analysed to ensure that opportunities for looked after children are maximized.

(Caution should be exercised in respect of percentages as the size of this sample is small).

Key areas under consideration are:

- How to increase the number of applications from looked after children – based on the minimal increase in interest over the last two years
- How to prepare candidates for the assessment process – given the decrease in success rates from 50% to 34%
- How to prepare candidates for the interview process – in light of the decrease in success rates from 44% to 17%

In the current campaign two of the three successful candidates were unable to commence work due to the results of CRB checks. There are a number of apprenticeship opportunities which do not require CRB clearance and in future campaigns it is essential that looked after children are provided with appropriate support to ensure they express a preference for options which are appropriate for them.

## **Coaching for Care Leavers scheme progress report**

### Background

Children's Services Management Team approved a model for mentoring and coaching of care leavers in March 2009. The objective of the programme was to provide additional support to care leavers aged 18+ in making the transition from care to independent adult life.

### Approach

Because the council has operated an effective mentoring scheme for several years, many managers across the council had received training and gained experience in mentoring. It was agreed that this in-house resource, with additional training, would be able to support care leavers. Utilising this resource would also benefit the adolescent and after care service by raising awareness across the organisation of what the service does and creating more integration of council services.

### Recruitment and Training of Volunteers

Managers (Hay 12+) across the council with mentoring experience were invited to volunteer to provide coaching and mentoring to a care leaver. The response was extremely positive with 22 volunteers coming forward from all departments bringing a wide range of personal and professional experience. Success in recruiting volunteers was due to:

1. A compelling proposition
2. Invitations to volunteer came from the Director of Children's Services
3. The Chief Executive was one of the first to volunteer
4. The opportunity for managers to extend skills and experience
5. A genuine desire to help

Volunteers attended a briefing session with the adolescent and aftercare service followed by a three-day coaching programme leading to the Certificate in Leaderful Youth Coaching (CLYC) accredited by the International Coach Federation. The model used looks at specific goals in the context of a whole life, recognising that work, relationships, accommodation, health etc are all interconnected.

All volunteers were CRB checked.

### Recruitment and Selection of Care Leavers

A leaflet was designed and distributed offering young people the opportunity to work with a coach. Personal advisers were briefed on the project and given guidance on which young people would be most likely to benefit from the service. Those young people who came forward were invited to a briefing session to explain what coaching is and how the service would be provided.

### Matching Coaches and Young People

Information was gathered from young people regarding their objectives for working with a coach along with basic details about their education, training, career and other aspects of life they would like help with. This was undertaken by managers in the A&AC service.

Each volunteer had a one-to-one with the project manager from organisational development (OD) to ascertain what they could offer and their preferences.

At a meeting between A&AC managers and OD information was reviewed and matches between coaches and young people proposed. The matching process was helped by significant experience of matching mentors and mentees in the council mentoring scheme.

From this process, 18 matches were proposed.

### Introducing Coaches and Young People

It was agreed that a group session where coaches and young people could be introduced would be the most supportive approach for all parties. It proved difficult, however to get everyone in the same place at the same time and only eight personal introductions were made on the planned date. Each pair arranged a date for their first coaching session as the outcome of the introduction.

### Coaching Activity

Although most of the coaches fed back that their first session went well, in almost all cases there has been difficulty in arranging or conducting further meetings. Coaches report that young people are difficult to contact and often do not turn up for meetings. Given the difficulties and challenges faced by the young people this was to some extent expected.

### Outcomes and Next Steps

It is too early at this stage to see clear added value from the coaching activity and likely benefits will not have been realised where coaching sessions haven't taken place.

The next step is to meet with the young people to try to improve problems with contact and attendance.

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Adolescent and Aftercare Service Children missing from care	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Service for Children in Care Children's Specialist Services	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The Corporate Parenting Committee to note current practice and policy with regards to children missing in care.
2. The Corporate Parenting Committee to note incidences during last calendar year of children missing from care, duration and age, gender and ethnicity

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. As a corporate parent a child missing from care is one of the most worrying circumstances faced by Children's Services needing prompt and coordinated management.
4. Children missing from care are recognised as being the most vulnerable children in the community and are recognised as a specific group in Southwark's overall strategy for "missing" children – other significant groups include children who are trafficked and those who are not on any school roll (ref: Victoria Climbié).
5. The DCSF have issued new statutory guidance as to how children who are missing from care or run away from home should be managed which necessitate staff procedures and guidance for carers/placements, police response and management overview until the child is found. Current and new guidance identifies specific issues and responses relating to children in care.
6. Carefirst has been modified to enable missing children to be immediately logged to facilitate communication with other agencies where the child may present especially the out of hours services. Carefirst also enables management overview reports to be provided to look at trends over a period of time.
7. Procedures require that if a child has been missing for seven days, then a detailed report is required for the Assistant Director of Specialist Services to overview all actions being taken by agencies to locate the child and secure their safety.
8. There are also resources available through the 1989 Children Act where it is an offence for an adult to knowingly harbor a looked after child. Southwark would be able to access the relevant part of the Act in partnership with the police to obtain an order to enter premises and remove the child.

9. It should also be noted that a child who is not residing at their placement but insists on living elsewhere without the permission of the Local Authority is deemed to be “missing”. These situations are more difficult to manage as usually the young person is aged 16 or 17 and is insistent that they should determine where they should live and with whom. Whilst Southwark would adopt a very flexible approach in pursuing its kinship policy for older children whereby more informal arrangements can be validated following appropriate assessments and checks, on occasion the assessment would indicate that the household does not afford a looked after child sufficient protection or appropriate living environment. These situations cannot be easily resolved by asking the police to forcefully remove a young adult who would only return to the address at the earliest opportunity.
10. Foster carers have clear training and guidance relating to reporting children missing from placement if they fail to return home at an agreed time which involves notification to the police, out of hours social work service and emergency on call fostering service.
11. There is a standing police protocol in place where they will not trigger an urgent response relating to a child who is late home from placement unless the age of the child or information from the carer would indicate they were in some form of immediate danger.
12. The Metropolitan Police have a Pan London agreement with all Boroughs where they may communicate a wish to access support from the media to advertise and raise public awareness as to a child who is missing from care. The police cannot pursue a publicity campaign without the approval from the relevant Assistant Director of Specialist Services.
13. Any external placements purchased by Southwark Council for children in care have clear contractual components which require children missing from care to be immediately reported to local police and the allocated social worker.

#### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

14. The attached chart (Appendix 1) outlines the numbers of children who were recorded as missing children during the 2009 calendar year.
15. This represents a total of 8 children who are missing from care aged between 14 and 17 years of age.
16. The gender split for the 8 children concerned are 5 female and 3 male.
17. The ethnicity breakdown is 7 white and 1 dual heritage.
18. A missing from care monitor is produced in Southwark every month for the Assistant Director to ensure that the procedures and protocols are being pursued and that monitoring reports are being provided. Appendix 2 outlines current procedures concerning children missing from care.
19. The Service Manager for the Adolescent and Aftercare and allocated Team Manager for the child missing from care monitor the arrangements to locate the child on a continuous basis until the child is found. Once a child has been found and returned to their placement or an alternative placement then a review is undertaken to consider any underlying issues and what steps can be taken to provide a more stable and consistent placement environment. This review is undertaken by the Team Manager and further considered by the Independent



Reviewing Officer at the next statutory review (NB: a new review is immediately commissioned should there be a change of placement).

- 20 This review will also take into account the possibility that occasionally a child may abscond from a placement as a result of abuse from their main carer.
- 21 Given the vulnerability of Southwark children in care and the abusive and chaotic lifestyles they have frequently experienced prior to admission, it is a strong testament to the quality of placement provision that the number of children missing from care is relatively low.
- 22 It should also be noted that none of the children who went missing during the last calendar year were unaccompanied minors.
- 23 A strategic group including Southwark police has been established to implement the new statutory guidance.

Weblink:

**Statutory Guidance on Children who run away and go missing from home or care** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6178>

- 24 The key points of the new guidance are as follows:
- **Definitions** – what do we mean by ‘runaway’ we must be careful that this guidance only applies to those who have runaway or who are missing for an amount of time and where there is intention to have runaway. It is not for unauthorised absence or where a child has not returned home on time
  - Unauthorised absence is different. Figures can be inflated by describing children as ‘missing’ when they are not ‘missing’
  - What are we recording when we note the missing children – are we clear if they are missing or just absent without authorisation
  - **Individual Case Management** – including return interviews for runaway/missing children by an independent person
  - The need for a Strategic Planning for Missing Children as a Group
  - Reporting to relevant agencies
  - Prevention
  - Quarterly Reports to Partners and the SSCB
  - Links to Trafficking and Forced Marriage
  - Link to children missing education.

### **Policy implications**

- 25 Southwark has correct procedures and protocols in line with statutory guidance issued by the DCSF and 1989 Children Act.

### **Community impact assessment**

- 26 Southwark residents should be confident that children who enter into public care

are secured in permanent placements and as Corporate Parent's we are aware of their whereabouts at all times.

### Resource implications

27 None.

### Consultation

28 None.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Protocol currently being written	Children's Specialist Services, SSCB	Malcolm Ward 0207 525 3733

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Report from 2009 Children missing from care
Appendix 2	Procedure and Practice Guidance from Southwark's Social Work Handbook (to be circulated separately)

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Saunders, Head of Services for Children in Care	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	8 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	-	-
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>	8 February 2010	

## APPENDIX 1

## CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE 2009

Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Placement Description	Date recorded as going missing	Date returned (currently missing if blank)
17	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts known	14/11/2009	11/12/2009
15	Female	White - Other	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	10/11/2009	
16	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	22/08/2009	19/09/2009
16	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	16/10/2009	21/10/2009
16	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	24/10/2009	04/11/2009
16	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	04/11/2009	16/11/2009
16	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	16/11/2009	27/11/2009
15	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts known	16/06/2009	05/07/2009
17	Male	White & Black Caribbean	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	10/07/2009	09/09/2009
17	Male	White & Black Caribbean	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	31/10/2009	
16	Male	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	19/10/2009	29/11/2009
14	Male	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	13/07/2009	19/07/2009
14	Male	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	21/10/2009	24/10/2009
17	Female	White British	Missing from placement - Whereabouts unknown	19/03/2009	09/07/2009

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Corporate Parenting Committee Review	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director of Children's Specialist Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To consider the implications for the scope and activity for the Corporate Parenting Committee arising from revised statutory guidelines, national inspection requirements, and new local priorities for children and young people;
2. To identify and agree a way forward from proposed options for the development of the Corporate Parenting Committee (paragraph 19).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Corporate parenting requires services across the Council including housing, education and leisure, to work together corporately and with partner agencies to achieve the best outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Duties in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 require local authorities and their 'relevant partners' to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing within the ECM outcomes framework.
4. Councillors, council officers and partner services all share corporate parenting responsibilities. These include acting as an advocate for children in their care, to help them to make a success of their lives. The reasons for children needing to be looked after will already have placed them at a disadvantage. Corporate parents should ensure these experiences are not compounded when they come into Southwark's care, and act as champions in ensuring this group's needs are met as best they can.
5. The corporate parenting approach, first articulated during the 1988 Quality Protects programme for children looked after, has been strengthened alongside the development of the broader children's agenda, particularly within the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes. A number of legislative and policy initiatives have further developed the statutory framework around securing good outcomes for children looked after and care leavers. Recently, these have reinforced the vital role played by corporate parents in securing these outcomes. This has also been reflected in new inspection standards for looked after children. Further details can be found in paragraph nine.
6. In view of these developments, this report reviews corporate parenting approaches, as requested by the Corporate Parenting Committee as the basis for considering how Southwark's corporate parenting approach can be further strengthened.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Corporate Parenting national framework

7. The government has indicated that the term 'corporate parent' recognises that the local authority must have the same interest in the progress and attainments of looked after children as a reasonable parent would have for their own children. Recent guidance has indicated that the welfare of looked after children is the responsibility of everyone in the local authority, including all services (including those outside of children's services) and all members. Ultimate corporate parenting accountability rests with the Lead Member for Children's Services, along with the Director for Children's Services.
8. The Care Matters White Paper indicates that all councillors should take an informed interest in how the council and its partners support children looked after (paragraph 1.26 of the White Paper); this effort should be led by the local corporate parenting group. The Care Matters programme of change indicates that embedding the concept of corporate parenting and its strategic delivery across all sectors is key to improving outcomes.
9. The new Ofsted and Care Quality Commission three-year inspections of looked-after children services will look at the effectiveness of corporate parenting as a key area. This will include an assessment and judgement of the following:
  - The championing role of senior officers and elected members;
  - The extent to which the corporate parenting group provides effective leadership and contribute significantly to the development of services, which are regularly audited for effectiveness;
  - The effectiveness of corporate parenting strategies, policies and procedures in supporting practice for looked after children and care leavers;
  - The extent to which there is an embedded culture of strong engagement of all relevant partners in corporate parenting;
  - That information on the effectiveness of the complaints system is part of the work of the corporate parenting panel.

Surveys of children in the local authority's care and who have recently left care will be undertaken through the Children's Right Director and will also be taken into account during these inspections. The Corporate Parenting Committee will play a significant role in evidencing the effectiveness of Southwark's corporate parenting and improving outcomes for looked after children.

10. There are also a number of national priorities for looked after children and care leavers, to be achieved in all local areas during 2010, as part of the Care Matters programme. These include establishing a Children in Care Council, developing a local Pledge for looked-after children, appointing a virtual school head by April 2010, and rolling out the Care2Work programme. Improving Corporate Parenting is also a significant priority, and to assist members in discharging their corporate parenting responsibilities, the Secretary of State has also reissued the list of questions on children in care (see Appendix 1).
11. The increasing prominence of corporate parenting approaches nationally, indicates the significant role to be played by corporate parenting groups in ensuring better outcomes for looked-after children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Committee may therefore wish to consider how it can continue to provide a valuable input in line with these corporate parenting requirements.

12. The National Children's Bureau has developed a checklist for corporate parents, which can be used by the Corporate Parenting Committee, in reviewing Southwark's corporate parenting approach (See Appendix 2).

### **Corporate Parenting best practice examples**

13. Good practice guidance indicate that corporate parenting is most effective when there is a shared collective responsibility across all local authority services to achieve good parenting for children in their care. It is considered that the needs of looked-after children cannot be met by a single agency, or by looked-after children's services alone, and key partners should work with local authorities to proactively support looked-after children. The Government's/ National Children's Bureau's model of effective corporate parenting is detailed at Appendix 3.
14. In other authorities, a strong culture of corporate parenting and collective approach to corporate parenting responsibilities has been embedded in the organisation through measures such as the following:
- Appointing a 'councillor champion' for looked-after children. This is frequently a councillor other than the Lead Member for Children's Services;
  - A corporate parenting strategy which sets out high aspirations for children in care, is signed up to by all sectors of the local authority and partners, and is used to indicate success;
  - Ensuring children's participation is an integral part of arrangements, including through an effective Children in Care Council;
  - Training members in their corporate parent responsibilities, so that they are able to make well-informed contributions to reviewing services and can champion the needs of looked-after children and care leavers in the other forums they are engaged in;
  - Looked-after children and care leavers remain high on the multi-agency strategic agenda and their needs are met within and across services. In some authorities, this is ensured through an established multi-agency looked after partnership, in others, senior officers from core services together with elected members form part of the Corporate Parenting Group to ensure strong corporate parenting across the system;
  - Strong lines of communication are kept between the Corporate Parenting Group and key strategic bodies such as the Children's Trust, the Executive and full Council. Often, the Corporate Parenting Group reports annually to these bodies, indicating areas of strengths as well as making recommendations to help improve outcomes for looked-after children.

In addition, Corporate Parenting Groups have regular communication with children looked-after. This is an area of strength for Southwark's Corporate Parenting Committee, which formally meets bi-annually with Speakerbox.

15. The Corporate Parenting Committee should consider how it can build on its strengths to drive a strong corporate parenting approach across the council and with partner agencies.

### **Local needs and issues**

16. Examples of corporate parenting best practice have been underpinned by a corporate parenting strategy that has ensured that both members and officers of local authorities have been able to meet and respond effectively to the needs of looked after children. In Southwark, this will be steered by our new Children and Young People Plan (CYPP). The role of the children's trust has been

strengthened and children's trusts now have greater responsibility and oversight for services concerning children, including looked after-children's services. Recent draft statutory guidance for children's trusts and CYPP regulations, has indicated that children's trusts are to become a statutory body, strengthened the duty on partners to cooperate and the CYPP has become more explicitly a joint commissioning plan for the children's trust which sets out how partners will fulfil their duty and local arrangements to cooperate.

17. Priorities contained in the forthcoming new CYPP 2010-13, including those for looked after children and care leavers, are based on an analysis of services for and the experiences of looked-after children and care leavers. The CYPP priorities for looked-after children and care leavers provide the framework within which services and partners should meet and address their corporate parenting responsibilities and improve the outcomes for looked-after children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Committee should monitor progress on these priorities, including the corporate parenting approach taken by services other than the looked-after children service.
18. The Corporate Parenting Committee can also play a key role in ensuring standards of care for looked-after children and care leavers, by helping services to sustain quality and monitor improvements where necessary, in line with new core inspection criteria.

### **Suggestions for development**

19. The Corporate Parenting Committee may wish to consider the best practice examples and emerging local and national issues in developing their forthcoming work programme and considering how corporate parenting can be improved across Southwark's services. In particular, the following may be considered to strengthen Southwark's corporate parenting approach and accountability:
  - How does the Corporate Parenting Committee interface with other bodies, such as Young Southwark? The Committee may wish to provide a regular report to Young Southwark, focussing on the progress of securing good outcomes for children and young people, such as those in the CYPP.
  - Should senior representatives from key services regularly attend, or form part of the membership of the Corporate Parenting Committee, to provide expert advice and ensure a focus on key areas is maintained throughout? The Committee's current terms of reference indicate that key services include health, education and employment, education and training (EET). Working group for looked after children currently exist along these three services; it may be considered that Corporate Parenting Committee's membership should be extended to include the chairs of these working groups.
  - How does the Corporate Parenting Committee ensure there is a whole systems approach to corporate parenting? The Committee may wish to consider having a minimum list 'one-off' topics to be considered each from the perspective of looked-after children, such as housing, child and adolescent mental health, transitions and leisure etc. To ensure effectiveness and evidence impact, such topics should be in line with the local performance framework and issues arising. Issues identified from self-evaluation, and inspection findings may also be explored. The Committee should ensure that senior representatives from these different partner services provide a report on their corporate parenting contribution, and how they work with the looked-after children's services in securing better outcomes.

### Policy implications

20. Any new corporate parenting approach in Southwark should be aligned to the new CYPP, which will be published in April 2010.

### Resource implications

21. None.

### Community impact statement

22. Changes to the Corporate Parenting Committee may have an impact on services provided to and for looked-after children. This report is judged to have very little other impact on local people and communities.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Accessible At
The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services	<a href="http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=DCSF-00686-2009">http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=DCSF-00686-2009</a>
Care Matters: Time for Change - White Paper	<a href="http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=Cm%25207137">http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&amp;PageMode=publications&amp;ProductId=Cm%25207137</a>
Ofsted inspection frameworks	<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Local-services/How-we-inspect">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Local-services/How-we-inspect</a>

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Follow up to the Care Matters National Stocktake letter
Appendix 2	Corporate Parenting: a checklist for corporate parents
Appendix 3	Model of effective corporate parenting

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Tasneem Mueen-Iqbal, Policy Officer, Strategy and Partnerships, Children's Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	5 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>	5 February 2010	





**Rt Hon Ed Balls MP**  
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0870 0012345 dcsf.ministers@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

To: Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members

December 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Follow Up to the Care Matters Ministerial Stocktake Report and Conference

I am writing to you with my reflections about what I learned from the Stocktake process and from young people who took part in the Stocktake event; and on what needs to happen now to ensure the quality of life of children and young people in care continues to improve, and that the progress being made for them is sustained and accelerated.

Naturally, the young people who helped to make the Stocktake Conference such a success were clear that they wanted their corporate parents to consult them on the big issues which matter to them, such as where they should live and go to school, and when they should leave care.

Like any other child or young person, they also wanted to be consulted on more routine matters, such as pocket money, bedtimes, and food. They said that a really effective way of consulting them collectively is via Children in Care Councils, which the majority of local authorities already have or are in the process of setting up. **We expect all local authorities to establish a Children in Care Council during 2010, if you have not done so already.**

I was surprised and disappointed that at the Stocktake conference, young people raised continuing concern about two everyday issues on which we have already made the Government's position absolutely clear – through Guidance and through other communications too.

The first is about giving black bin liners to children and young people to transport their belongings when they move placements. They have said repeatedly that they find this practice humiliating and degrading, as I am sure we can all readily appreciate.

The second is about the parents of friends with whom children in care have overnight stays being required to have a CRB check. This approach immediately singles out children in care as 'different' and gets in the way of them developing and enjoying friendships like their peers. It is therefore



profoundly unhelpful, as well as unnecessary. Like parents, carers should be expected to use their good judgement to take account of any risks and to make sensible decisions in each individual case.

I thought that both practices had now entirely ceased but children at the Stocktake event reported that they still continue in some places, so please can you **check** what happens in your authority and, if necessary, take immediate action to ensure such bad practice stops.

Over the next year we will be asking the Children's Rights Director to talk to children and young people across the country about their experiences in these respects, and I hope they will report that these approaches have been well and truly consigned to the past.

### Strong Corporate Parents

Overall, the Stocktake report shows that outcomes for children in care are steadily improving and I want to acknowledge the hard work and commitment that lies behind this progress. However, we need to go further and faster, as the gap between children in care and their peers is still much too big, and rates of progress are highly variable between different authorities, including between those with apparently similar circumstances and care populations.

As Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members you are crucial in leading positive change for children in care – both within your authority and across your Children's Trust. At the Care Matters conference some delegates asked us to re-issue an updated list of questions Lead Members should be asking their officers to help them to discharge their corporate parenting responsibilities effectively; this is attached.

### Virtual School Heads

In August we published the evaluation of our pilots on virtual school heads (VSH), which showed that where a senior manager in an authority rigorously monitors and champions attainment, it has a real impact on the educational attainment of children in care. **Across the country, the majority of local authorities have now appointed a VSH and we would ask all to do so by Easter 2010.** To support the creation of this role we have provided funding in the Care Matters Grant, which forms part of the Area Based Grant.

### From Care2Work Programme

Earlier this year I launched the *From Care2Work* programme, which is being run by the National Care Advisory Service, with funding from Government. Under this excellent programme 30 national employers, including this Department, have already signed up to provide individual career pathways and employment opportunities for care leavers. I'm delighted that 131 local authorities have joined the programme to date; **if your authority has not yet signed up I would strongly encourage you to act now and in any case to do so by the end of January 2010**, since it is clear that *From Care2Work* is



making a real difference to the young people who are taking part.

I recognise that there is considerable pressure on children's services, but I am sure you will agree that it is crucial that we continue to make progress in improving the lives of children in care. We know that these most vulnerable children and young people can and will achieve if we give them the right support. It is up to all of us to ensure that this happens.

I have asked Delyth Morgan, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, to look at progress in improving support for looked after children. She will be writing in the new year to those authorities which are performing least well on a range of indicators for looked after children, to ask what their plans are for listening to children and young people in their care and acting on their views.

If you were unable to attend the Stocktake conference you can see a short extract of the Q&A session with the young people at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/childrenincare](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/childrenincare)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Balls'.

ED BALLS MP

## QUESTIONS FOR COUNCILLORS TO ASK ON CHILDREN IN CARE

All Councillors - whether Cabinet members or backbenchers - should receive regular reports on children in care. The following is a list of questions that members should ask of their authority.

### General

- How many children are in the care of our authority?
- What is their ethnic and cultural background?
- Has your authority set high aspirations for their outcomes and is progress regularly reviewed using both quantitative and qualitative data?
- Have you developed a strategy for commissioning children's services in partnership with health, and other local agencies?
- Have the authority set up a Children in Care Council and does the Director and Lead Member regularly attend its meetings?
- Does the authority set an annual Pledge on how it will improve its services to children in care?
- Do all children have an allocated social worker?
- How does the authority ensure children's views are taken into account of decisions that affect their lives?
- Do all children have a named Independent Reviewing officer? who has the skills and authority to challenge decisions on their behalf?
- Are children allowed to take part in normal and age appropriate peer activities as would normally be granted by the parent to their peers?
- Are children are encouraged and enabled to make and sustain friendships with children of their own age, including being able to stay overnight in friends households based on a reasonable assessment of risk (but without the requirement for CRB checks) in line with Government guidance?

## Placements

- What type of placement are children in - foster care, residential homes or secure units?
- How does the authority ensure emergency placements are only made in exceptional circumstances?
- How many placement moves have children had in a year? Is the number who move 3 or more times a year reducing?
- How many out of authority placements are made?
- How does the authority assess and review the quality of placements etc?
- Are regular reviews held to ensure the placements are working well?
- Is there a strong focus on training for foster carers to develop their skills and competencies?
- Does the authority provide range of quality support services to carers and children to prevent placements breaking down?
- Do all Foster carers have a named supervising social worker?
- Do all residential staff receive training and development opportunities that equip them with the professional skills required to meet the needs of the children and the purpose of the setting?
- Does the authority give children appropriate suitcases and boxes to move their belongings when they move placements?

## Education

- Does the authority have a virtual school head (or senior official) who has responsibility for monitoring the progress of looked after children at school?
- Have all schools appointed a designated teacher?
- How many children attend school regularly and how many are excluded from school? Is this number going down?
- What progress are children making and what are their test scores and examination results? Are these going up? Is the gap between



them and their peers reducing?

- Does the authority use the £500 Personal Education Allowance to support every child who does not reach the expected standard?
- Are children in care prioritised to receive one-to-one tuition?
- Does the authority pay a £2,000 bursary to all care leavers who undertake a designated course of higher education?

## **Health**

- Is there effective co-ordination and commissioning of health services, including CAMHS?
- Do strategies to address health inequalities and health promotion, include specific actions to support children in care?
- Are all children registered with a GP and have access to a dentist?
- Are all foster carers given basic training on health, hygiene issues and first aid, with a particular emphasis on health promotion and communicable diseases?
- Are there systems in place to monitor whether the health needs of: children placed out of authority; disabled children; black and minority ethnic children are being met?
- Do leaving care services ensure that health and access to positive activities are included as part of young people's pathway planning?

## **Missing from Care/Offending behaviour**

- How many children run away or otherwise have gone missing from residential care and foster care?
- Are there strong protocols in place with the Police when children go missing, in line with national guidance?
- Are there particular processes and systems in place to identify and safeguard children suspected of being trafficked into the country?
- How many children are involved in offending behaviour? What action is the authority taking in partnership with other agencies to reduce this?

## Care Leavers

- How many young people leave care at the ages of 16, 17 and 18?  
Is the number leaving at 16 reducing?
- What is their ethnic and cultural background?
- How much is spent on after care services, including direct financial assistance to care leavers?
- Does each care leaver have a pathway plan which takes account of their views and is regularly reviewed?
- Do local commissioning strategies involve housing agencies and ensure that care leavers have a range of suitable supported accommodation options?
- How many care leavers live in suitable accommodation in line with national guidance? Is this number going up each year?
- How many care leavers participate in employment, education, or training? Is this number going up each year?
- Has your local authority signed up to the *From Care2Work* Programme?

## A checklist for corporate parents

Reproduced from *Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice – A toolkit for Councils*  
(pages 54-60)



## Governance and leadership

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you have a multi-agency corporate parenting group?				
Are the right agencies represented? (That is to say, all those who have a role in improving the outcomes for looked after children and care-leavers.)				
Does it have clear terms of reference?				
Is it clear what decisions it can make?				
Does it have a workplan?				
Is it clear what recommendations are referred to other committees/agencies for decision?				
Are there clear links with other relevant committees/groups across all agencies?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Comments
Do you have an elected member/s who acts as a champion for looked after children and care-leavers?				
Is this person different from the Lead Member of Children's Services established under Section 19 of the Children Act 2004?				
Name of champion:				Name of lead member:
Position:				Position:
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Have you defined elected members' roles and responsibilities for looked after children and care-leavers?				
Executive/cabinet members?				
Scrutiny members?				
Non-executive members/backbenchers?				
Members of district councils?				
Lead member?				
Members of corporate parenting group?				
Other?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Does the corporate parenting group have clear links with the following:				
Children's strategic partnership?				
Strategic board of the children's trust?				
Local safeguarding children's board?				
Council executive?				
Full council?				
Scrutiny committee/s?				
Other?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

## Policies

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you have the following policies for looked after children and care-leavers?				
Kinship care policy?				
Permanency?				
Out-of-authority looked after children and care-leavers?				
Behaviour management, including physical intervention?				
Physical contact?				
Sex and relationships?				
Smoking and substance use?				
Meeting the needs of black and other minority ethnic children?				
Whistle-blowing?				
Other?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

## Participation

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you have fora or other mechanisms for consulting:				
Looked after children across the age groups?				

Care-leavers?				
Their parents?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do all agencies and providers have ways of consulting looked after children, care-leavers and their parents?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you hold celebration events for looked after children and care-leavers?				
Do you hold other events for looked after children and care-leavers?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do all looked after children and care-leavers have access to advocacy services?				
Do all looked after children and care-leavers have clear information about how to make complaints?				
Does the information about complaints get collated and acted upon?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you have information (in a range of media for all ages/levels of ability) explaining what it means to be looked after for the following?				
Looked after children?				
Care-leavers?				
Their parents?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

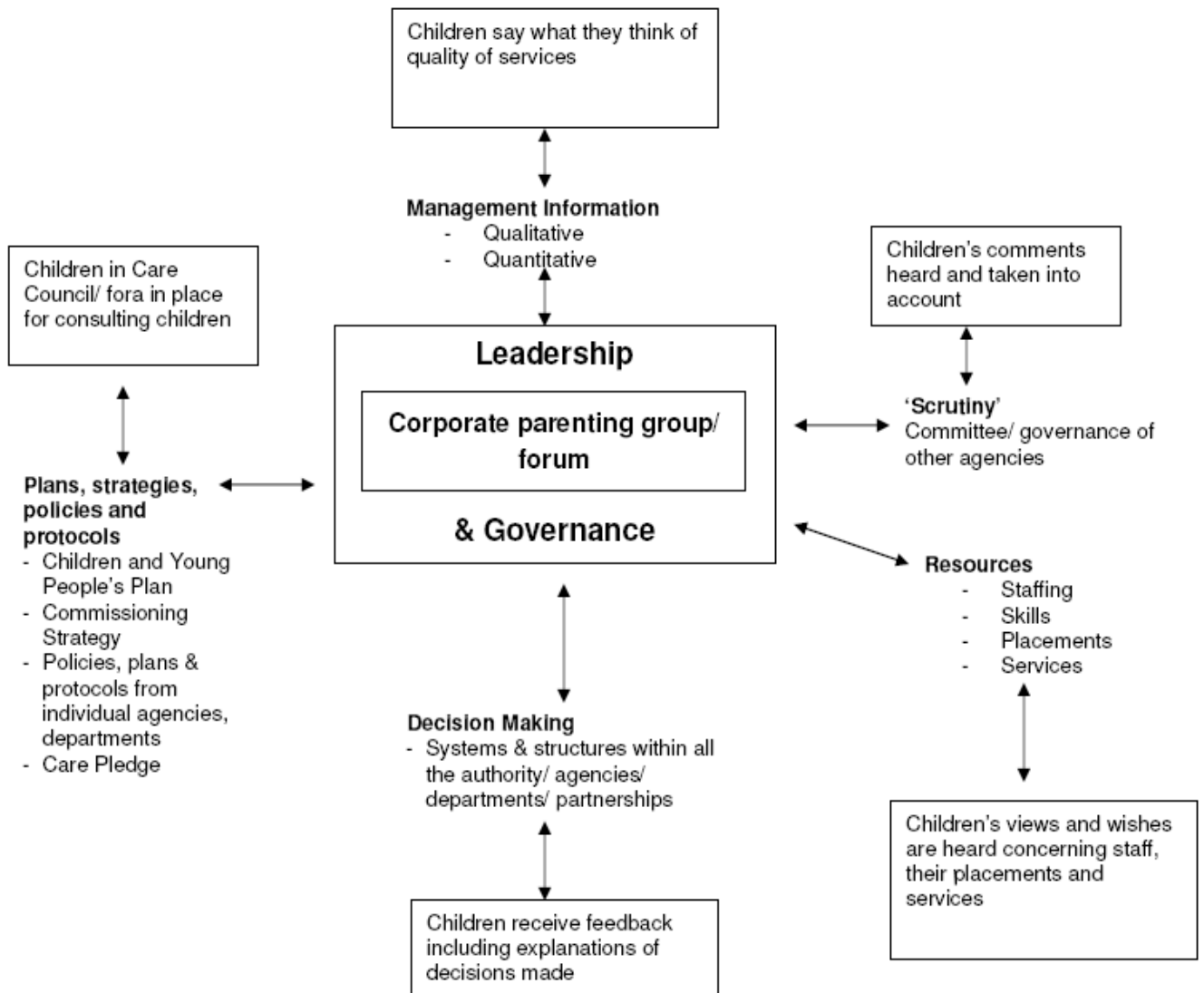
## Reports

	Yes	Partly	No	Evidence/Comments
Do you receive regular reports from officers on the following outcomes for looked after children and care-leavers?				
• Being healthy?				
• Staying safe?				
• Enjoying and achieving?				
• Making a positive contribution?				
• Achieving economic well-being?				
• If so, do the reports include qualitative as well as quantitative information?				
• Do you use the information to inform your planning?				
<b>Action(s) needed</b>				

<b>What needs do you think you are meeting well/not well?</b>

## Appendix 3

### A model of effective corporate parenting



# Agenda Item 9

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Speakerbox updates	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the progress of the Children's Rights Officer with speakerbox on
  - the Tell It How It Was Project;
  - the 'Children in Care Council' for Southwark ;
  - the Southwark Pledge and the London Pledge.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Committee approves
  - the name 'Speaker Box Council' for Southwark's Children in Care Council
  - The Golden Rules as the Southwark Pledge
3. That the Corporate Parenting Committee agrees to accept further updates on these in the second half of 2010.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The Tell It How It Was Project involves care leavers interviewing care leavers to find out how their experience of being looked after in Southwark was. From their answers informed improvements to services and resources can be planned. An action plan from the 2009-2010 questionnaires has been drawn up between Speaker Box and head of LAC Services to implement the recommendations from the Project. This action plan is attached at appendix 1.
5. Every Council is required to have a Children in Care Council, as first stated in the DCSF white paper Care Matters: Time for Change 2007, enshrined in law in the Children and Young Peoples Act 2009. A Children in Care Council is expected to enable regular good quality dialogue and involvement in planning and delivering service. It must have direct links with the Director of Children's Services and elected members.
6. There is not an agreed framework for establishing Children in Care Council and many different approaches have been adopted by councils throughout England. A summary report of these different styles is attached at Appendix 2 for members information and to assist them in comparing what happens in Southwark with other Local Authorities.
7. In Southwark much progress has been made prior to any the introduction of this statutory requirement .Speaker Box group was established in 2005 to support children looked after to meet, voice their views and have regular input into decision making via direct consultations , meetings with Senior management and in latter years meetings with Corporate Parenting Committee.



8. The Speaker Box Group is now in the process of formalising Children in Care Council which they are choosing to call Speaker Box Council. A report on the progress of the Speaker Box Council is attached at appendix 3.
9. Local Authorities are also required to adopt a Pledge or a promise of what standards of care they will strive to provide for their children in care. In Southwark, again prior to this statutory requirement, Speaker Box developed the 10 Golden Rules with looked after children. These have been widely circulated and copies are available for elected members along with the Speaker Box members cards. Speaker Box wish to keep the 10 Golden Rules as Southwark's Pledge. These will be reviewed and updated by the Speaker Box council. The list of Golden Rules for Southwark is show at Appendix 4.
10. In Addition, London Councils have been asked to sign up to the London Pledge which is attached at Appendix 5. Many Local Authorities have not signed up or have selected those pledges which they will sign up to. Many of the pledges are aspirational but some could have resource implications or are ambiguous in wording. Speaker Box have identified those which they feel need further discussion with the Head of Looked After Services in attached report at Appendix 6. The final outcome of these discussions will be presented later in the year to the Committee.
11. It is hoped that through collaborative working and pooling of resources between Youth Services, 13-19 Partnership and Childrens Rights Service that the enhancing of an existing care leavers apprenticeship post to a pilot full time position dedicated to working with Looked After Children to develop the Speaker Box Council and other positive activities, information and consultation looked after children will be possible. A draft job description is attached at Appendix 7. The Corporate Parenting Committees support is sought for this.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance**

12. Not applicable
13. The Children in Care Council will require funding to set up and maintain the Council. Speaker Box has estimated a budget of £5000 for the running of the Speaker Box Council during 2010- 2011. This funding can be obtained from within the existing Childrens Rights Budget.
14. Funding for the pilot position of Speaker Box Council Project Worker is being sought from a pooling of resource from several services but has not yet been secured.

### **Community Impact Statement**

15. The Speaker Box Council will ensure the views of looked after children in Southwark, including those from black and ethnic minorities and Children with Disabilities , various ages , males and females are sought and represented to Senior Management and Elected Members to contribute to the decision making in their lives.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Children In Care Councils The London Pledge Speaker Box Council Update Pledge Update Tell it How it was JD for Speaker Box Project worker.	Southwark Council Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1	Rosin McManus Tel: 020 7525 3899

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Tell It How It Was – Action Plan
2	Summary of different styles of Children in Care Councils
3	Progress report on the Speaker Box Council
4	Golden Rules for Southwark
5	London Pledge
6	Speaker Box report in response to London Pledge
7	Draft Job Description for Care Leavers Apprenticeship post

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding	
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Strategic Director for Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here	No	
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>	5 February 2010	

## Appendix 1

### Tell It As It Was Action Plan

#### Introduction

Tell it as it was is a project delivered by Speakerbox in partnership with the CLA Service to obtain “exit interviews” for care leavers. Speakerbox have trained a number of young people in care and care leavers to undertake exit interviews so that there can be a formal and effective feedback process to CLA Services to monitor service delivery and shape service improvement.

The pilot exercise involved interviewing 10 care leavers and was presented as a summary document at the Corporate Parenting and Speakerbox meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Whilst it was recognised that feedback from 10 care leavers was a small cohort, never the less there were some learning points which could be taken forward.

The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee requested that an action plan be drawn up including how “tell it as it was” would be continued.

#### Action Plan

Action Point	Timescale	Lead Person
1) Summary document to be developed into a power point presentation	Dec 2009	FN
2) Briefing of main findings to go in Speakerbox magazine and invite all care leavers to telephone in if they wish to partake in an interview	Dec 2009	FN
3) Circulation of Speakerbox magazine should be expanded to include care leavers so that they have an additional information resource regarding services and new developments.	Dec 2009	CE
4) Tell it as it was will be delivered as a major annual event during each summer holiday period for two weeks. This will build upon the model developed in 2009 using a care leaver where 80 young people were interviewed in the Bradenham A & AC Service reception area. This would also be complimented through the interview team (trained care leavers) also undertaking telephone interviews from Bradenham between 4pm and 6pm for those care leavers who are in employment education and training.	August 2010	Speakerbox/Children Rights Officer and CLA Service

Action Point	Timescale	Lead Person
5) Summary report to be sent directly to the 10 young people who were interviewed and enclose the powerpoint presentation (see decision 1 above)		FN/CE
6) Delivery of staff briefing sessions using powerpoint presentations as follows:		

a) to be integrated into the section of the foster carer pre approval training delivered by Speakerbox four times per year.	Jan 2010	Speakerbox
b) presentation to Adolescent and Aftercare Service	April 2010	CS
c) presentation to Southwark's Fostering Service	March 2010	CS
d) presentation to Southwark's Foster Care Association (SFCA) to accompany Chris Saunders to one of his yearly meetings with SFCA to present findings	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox
7) Recommendation to be made that the tell it as it was process would be fed back to the SFCA on an annual basis. It is considered possible that the SFCA might wish to work with Speakerbox to shape some of the questions.	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox/SFCA
8) SFCA to be asked to summarise the feedback and distribute it to all their members with the minutes of the meeting	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox/Chair of SFCA
9) The fostering service will review its policy regarding sleepovers (recent government guidance) and ensure this is communicated with all carers and fostering link social workers	April 2010	S Sinclair
<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>
10) The Adolescent and Aftercare Service has been planning the development of its group work session to deliver more "open" access through the development of a drop in service. After a significant planning process it is expected the drop in service will become available from Jan 2010. This will meet many of the needs identified through the tell it as it was exercise relating to finance, isolation, ongoing support and transition to independence	Jan 2010	A&AC/CS
11) The Children's Rights Officer will obtain posters (and laminate) for the Bradenham reception area relating to home tasks and semi independence	Jan 2010	Children's Rights Officer

training. In addition a number of CD's will be ordered which will promote financial learning for distribution and use in the Bradenham IT Suite		
12) Introduction of personal allowance scheme changes to leaving care grant and personal banking facilities will be introduced from Jan 2010. This programme has been developed in consultation with Speakerbox over the last nine months and will respond to many of the issues identified in tell it as it was relating to finance and managing one's own accommodation on a limited budget.	Jan - June 2010	CS
13) Expectation will be reinforced that Foster Carers attend open evenings NB: PEP's are attended by Carers. Compliance will be closely monitored by Fostering Services and continue to be reinforced in pre approval training and fostering procedures	April 2010	SS/CS

## Appendix 2



### **Establishing the Children In Care Council Network – June 2009**

This document aims to provide a first insight into the development of Children In Care Councils. It is being published to enable CICC's to begin working together sharing best practice.

NCERCC contacted all Local Authorities in England and asked them to describe their CICC vision and activity. 43 responses have been received so far and, with permission, these have been edited to produce this document. We hope it will act as an encouragement for more CICC's to respond to Charlotte Levene [clevene@ncb.org.uk](mailto:clevene@ncb.org.uk) as soon as possible and a further publication will follow.

CROA and NCERCC are establishing a CICC Consortium.

**The work of the CICC Consortium** will be to

- Provide a national CICC network - this document is the first step
- A website for sharing developments – in construction – with direct input from each CICC
- A national conference – being planned for this Autumn
- Training – in development

The Consortium will include CICC representatives from each council at regional and national meetings, be responsible for relaying information to and from meetings and for informing the Consortium of training needs. Independent organisations are being encouraged to actively involve themselves with the Consortium, assisting with resources and funding. Project funding is being sought.

If you wish to be a part of the Consortium, please contact [kamna@croa.org.uk](mailto:kamna@croa.org.uk).

### **Barking and Dagenham**

Darren McAughtrie, Safeguarding & Rights Service, Participation & Children's Rights Team  
[Darren.McAughtrie@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:Darren.McAughtrie@lbbd.gov.uk)

Skittles is the name of the young people's group who are responsible for listening to and sharing with Senior Managers within Safeguarding and Rights, the experiences, ideas and suggestions of young people in the care of Barking and Dagenham. Skittles is now operating as the Children in Care Council.

As a member of Skittles the main role of each young person is to consult with other young people in care in their age group and bring back their viewpoints, opinions, ideas, suggestions and comments to Children's Rights staff. These views will be fed back to Senior Managers. Children's Rights staff will be responsible for making sure that young people get feedback on how their ideas and suggestions have been actioned.

## Key Facts

### What Skittles Representatives can expect

- To receive training and support in their role
- To learn new skills that they can use in life
- Clear direction
- Payment for the work that they do
- To have the opportunity to put ideas forward to Senior Managers
- To be asked to work on new projects and policies that will make a difference to Children and Young People in Care in Barking and Dagenham.
- To be always given support and guidance by the Participation and Children's Rights Team.

### What will be expected from Skittles representatives

- Attendance at meetings (to be scheduled monthly)
- That they consult young people in their allocated age range
- Attendance and contribution to meetings like Members Corporate Parenting Panel (MCP) and the 16+ activities board when asked.
- To work as part of a team with the other Skittles members and the Participation Officer to support each other.

## **Barnet**

Marion Ingram, Acting Deputy Director of Children's Service, Safeguarding and Social Care

[Marion.Ingram@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Marion.Ingram@barnet.gov.uk)

Barnet have started to do some preparation in terms of how they want their Children In Care Council to look. Barnet are creating a participation post through the 'Care Matters' funding and this post will support the Council.

## **Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

Sofia Hussain,

[Sofia.Hussain@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Sofia.Hussain@blackburn.gov.uk)

Blackburn with Darwen Children in Care Council has been established just over a year. There are currently a group of care leavers who are representing all BwD children and young people in care. In February 2009 the Council was advertised to

young people and names were gathered of those interested in joining “urcarecouncil” and an informal recruitment event is due to take place shortly.

Council meetings will take place monthly and Council reports/ feedback will be posted on the new dedicated website [urcarecouncil.com](http://urcarecouncil.com)

The short terms aims of the council are to get more children and young people in care of BwD registered onto the website and for all council members to continue to attend conferences/ workshops related to Children in Care Councils.

## **Brighton**

Liz Rugg, Assistant Director- Specialist Services,  
[Liz.Rugg@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Rugg@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

In March 2009 staff and young people organized a Children In Care Councils launch event. The event included consulting on the Brighton and Hove pledge. When a final agreed version of the pledge is in place, it will form the basis of a launch event for a revamped Corporate Parenting group that will involve the Children in Care Council plus elected members.

## **Bristol**

Bristol Children in Care Council (CiCC)  
Mark Bandalli, Policy & Project Officer, Care Matters  
[Mark.Bandalli@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Bandalli@bristol.gov.uk)

The group meets monthly and is comprised of ten regular attendees aged 11-17 all currently living in foster care. Two young people who live in residential care are being integrated and two young people who are leaving care are attached to the council.

The Children in Care Council discuss the issues that they feel are affecting the care population of Bristol at their monthly meeting. These views are recorded. This is then passed to the Corporate Parenting Panel through the Children in Care Council chair who raises the issues at the meeting. The current plan is to also submit a DVD / Film to the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Corporate Parenting Panel discusses the issues raised and a person is designated to respond.

It is hoped that the Children in Care Council will begin to take more creative control of the Bristol children in care RVOICE magazine. The Children in Care Council have closely scrutinised the draft Bristol Pledge and the council have begun working on the designs and content for the young people’s website.

The Children in Care Council has room for expansion and it is hoped that more young people will be recruited into the group. Providing children in care who are not members of the Children in Care Council with the option of filming their views via camera allows views from children outside the council to be represented and included in the DVD submissions to the CPP. The Children in Care Council is an ongoing project. There is still someway to go and increasing representation from primary school children, children with disabilities and care leavers will be specifically targeted over the next 12 months.

## **Calderdale**



Raheeda Inayat, Principal Officer – Looked After Children  
[Raheeda.Inayat@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Raheeda.Inayat@calderdale.gov.uk)

Calderdale has a Children in Care Council that meets quarterly with the lead member, a councillor from the corporate parenting support group, the Children's Social Care Head of Service, the Group Director, the Principal Officer for Looked After Children and the Children's Rights worker. Calderdale try to get as many children/young people as possible to attend.

A newsletter called V4U is created, designed and published by the young people after the meeting and distributed widely so that all children/young people in care/foster carers, professionals are aware of the issues that are being raised and the actions being taken.

The Children's Rights worker is becoming actively involved in trying to ensure that all children/young people in care have a voice, irrespective of where they live. Through the issues raised, new initiatives are being developed e.g. a project has just been launched for free leisure activities for children/young people and foster carer's birth children.

Calderdale are looking to promote the involvement of particularly vulnerable groups of children/young people in care, for example, separated children and disabled children.

They are considering training for all councillors on the corporate parenting role and are involved in a joint project with Kirklees, Bradford and York in completing an audio CD.

## **Cornwall**

Colin Reed, Senior Manager for Children in Care  
[creed@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:creed@cornwall.gov.uk)

Cornwall are planning to start a Children in Care Council in the near future. The young people may wish to give it a different title. There is already a young persons in care steering group for Voice for Us, known as V4US (a participation group for Children in Care) which has over 80 members. There is also a Corporate Parenting Stakeholder Forum and 3 young people in care attend. The Children in Care Council would be part of the Corporate Parenting strategy and would feed in to the Stakeholder Forum and Executive Steering Group and be key consultants in developing and improving services and approaches.

## **Croydon**

Barbara Peacock, Director, Development & Care  
[Jacqueline.Goddard@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.Goddard@croydon.gov.uk)

Croydon is committed to setting up a Children in Care Council and have undertaken some initial work with the intention is to have a Children in Care Council established by the autumn.

## **Derbyshire**

Steve Lowe, Children's Rights Officer

[Steve.Lowe@Derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Lowe@Derbyshire.gov.uk)

A group of up to 15 young people meet monthly and have done so for 15 months. The group ranges from 14 – 19 years old and include young people in foster care, residential and living independently. They have produced a top 10 issues list that has been answered by senior managers and elected members and are now formally linked to the corporate parenting committee of the County Council. Two members of the Children in Care Council go to Corporate parenting meetings and 2 elected members attend each Children in Care Council. The group are working on a corporate parenting pledge that will have 5 static statements and 5 that will change each year with a letter to all children in care explaining how the annual pledges have been met. The Council has been made up of people recruited through Make a Difference Days run by the participation worker but from April 2010 will be voted in at the bi-annual vote for the youth council when there will also be 2 seats put aside for children in care.

## **Devon**

Mark Goodman, Participation Worker (Children in Care)  
[mark.goodman@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mark.goodman@devon.gov.uk)

The Children in Care Council work has been developed over the last 2 years. In April 2007 a Participation Worker was appointed half time to ensure that the voices of children in care were listened to. Since then the Youth Service and Children in Care Service have developed a partnership to facilitate this work. Elected members and key officers have been included throughout.

The involvement of key politicians and senior officers, including Saturdays and evenings, has enabled young people to speak directly to an adult with significant power.

In May 2008 young people came together to form a Children in Care Council planning group and they have been responsible for developing “Children’s Voice” the name they have given to Devon’s Children in Care Council. Whilst doing this they have also been involved in:

- writing and designing the Devon’s Pledge to young people in care.
- various pieces of consultation
- having their voice heard about placement stability through being videoed and this being shown to the councillors responsible for their care.
- attending corporate parenting meetings
- staff recruitment processes

The Children in Care Council (Children’s Voice) has now been formed and was launched at the Children in Care Awards Evening held at County Hall in January 2009. The Young People were fully involved by doing a presentation and running a display stand at the launch evening. A further two staff have been employed to develop this work with the young people making up one of the two interview panels. Two of the young people are currently helping with the design and development of a new Webpage (part of Devon’s wider participation of young people agenda “Geturvoiceheard” website) and also a Face Book Page.

Some of our Objectives for 2009/10

- Children and young people have their say and make suggestions about improving their care

- Monitoring that the Devon Pledge to Children in Care is making a difference
- Young people support other children and young people in care
- Young people involved in Children's Voice have a range of accreditation opportunities
- We celebrate the achievement of children and young people in care
- Adults better understand how children and young people can engage with Children's Voice depending upon their interests and abilities
- Measuring the difference made by the work of the Participation Workers

## **Dorset**

Jim Chamberlain, Policy Manager (Children Looked After)

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In Dorset the views of children and young people in care and care leavers have been surveyed. The outline proposal for a Children in Care Council is to set up three regional groups and to draw representation from each of these groups to form a small central group who would be the interface with officers/elected members, via the Corporate Parenting Panel (or an adapted version of this). The intention would be to channel views/initiatives from young people to officers/members, and to provide an opportunity for officers to seek consultation with the Children in Care Council on staff generated policy initiatives. Dorset plans to employ some co-ordination/facilitation time from sessional staff/care leavers via the local Children's Rights Service (run by Action for Children).

## **Dudley**

Jane Prashar, Divisional Manager Children's Resources

[jane.prashar@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:jane.prashar@dudley.gov.uk)

Dudley is in the process of establishing its Children in Care Council. The council will emerge from the work developing Dudley's pledge to children in care. It is envisaged that the Council will be up and running towards the end of 2009. The intention is that the Children in Care Council will hold to account the delivery of those things contained in the pledge.

## **East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

Joanna Davis, Participation Manager, Children, Families and Adult Support Services

[Joanna.Davis@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.Davis@eastriding.gov.uk)

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council has a Children in Care Council. The group was established in 2008 and has active membership. East Riding are reviewing how they can ensure the active participation of children and young people on the Children in Care Council but balance this with keeping it fun and interesting. The Children in Care Council is driving the Pledge forward and ensuring they communicate with other children and young people in care through a newsletter. There is one member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the Children in Care Council but the activities are supported by other staff as required.

## **East Sussex**

Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children's Services

[teresa.lavelle-hill@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.lavelle-hill@eastsussex.gov.uk)

The Placement Support Team, which is part of the Fostering Service, facilitated a well-established user group of children in care, and this group was at the forefront of developing East Sussex Children in Care Council. Preparatory work with children in care, staff, and managers has taken place culminating in a Children in Care Council Conference on 5 July where young people had the opportunity to feed back to senior managers and the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families their expectation of a Children in Care Council, and how this will fit in with East Sussex's Pledge for children in care.

Significant progress has been made in East Sussex on the development of a draft Pledge. An extensive survey was initially undertaken with children in care aged 7 to 18 to ask what they felt being in care should be like and to identify their most important issues. Almost 50% of the questionnaires were completed and returned. The fostering service undertook a wide ranging piece of work to collate and review all participation work and feedback from the children in care.

At the beginning of September 08, 15 young people met to form the Children in Care Council and to begin to discuss some of their issues in more detail with the Heads of Service of Looked After Children. Combining all previous feedback from looked after children with the results of the questionnaires; key themes emerged that are incorporated into East Sussex draft Pledge.

The Children in Care Council took part in a two-day residential weekend at the beginning of October to discuss the terms of reference for the Children in Care Council and to comment on the draft Pledge.

The Children in Care Council in East Sussex has developed into a cohesive effective group. They meet monthly and are involved currently in a number of projects, for example the design of a web page and a leaflet of the Pledge. The Children in Care Council attend the Corporate parenting Panel to discuss issues directly with elected members.

The Children in Care Council have also requested the attendance of various senior managers to their meetings to discuss significant issues that affect children in care. For example the Virtual Head for Looked After Children after attending one of their meetings was able to take forward with social workers and schools the Children in Care Council wish that children and young people should not be called out of lessons to attend their Personal Education Planning meeting.

The Children in Care Council in East Sussex provides clear accountability of elected members and senior managers, and social workers to our children in care.

### **Gloucestershire**

Chris Sands, Head of Individual Commissioning for Children and Young People  
Children and Young People's Directorate  
[chris.sands@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.sands@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Gloucestershire County Council has a Listening to Children's Reference Group which meets regularly with senior managers and elected members to discuss issues of concern to young people looked after and other issues which are likely to be of interest to our looked after young people. This group also invites other managers and representatives from organisations to join them to talk about specific service issues. The group receives feedback on what has happened as a result of their concerns through 'You Said...We Did', which is published in termly magazines

written by and for looked after young people. There is also a reference group for consulting young people about policies, and procedures. Members of both groups are involved in young people's interview panels for recruiting staff to senior manager posts and are also involved in tender evaluations for pre-qualifying services which offer provision for looked after children and young people (e.g. fostering). Both groups have worked with a media company and made DVDs about issues pertinent to children in care, e.g. bullying and loss.

In addition to the Listening to Children Reference Group, the Head teacher of our Virtual School has set up a School Council. The Virtual School Council was formed after receiving training from Schools Council UK in January 2007. It has elected a committee and chair and it meets at least three times a year. The purpose of the group is to give learners a voice about education. To date the School Council chair has been to London with the Head teacher to receive training on the on-line school council site available for all young people in care. The Council met and looked at our existing Personal Education Plan (PEP) format and gave an opinion about the redesigning of the format before it was re-launched in September. The Council has been instrumental in the design of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and has worked with the commissioned web designer to incorporate their ideas. The group is run by and for students and has young people in Years 6- 12 currently involved. The Virtual School staff facilitates the events.

### **Greenwich**

Mary Moralee  
[mary.moralee@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:mary.moralee@greenwich.gov.uk)

Greenwich are looking to set up a council during the next financial year with a view to advertising and appointing a new participation post.

### **Halton**

Christine Taylor, Divisional Manager (Children in Care)  
[Christine.Taylor@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.Taylor@halton.gov.uk)

Halton established its Children in Care Council approx 18 months ago and since that time it has developed into a body which attracts approx 25% of Children in Care of school age.

*The meetings are run during the school holidays and are prefaced by an activity day looking at a specific issue. Recently, the children have looked at PEPs with the help of a drama group. They then presented their thoughts on PEPs to the officers and this was followed by a general council meeting. Another one looked at the Pledge and was based around an art day. The young people did a presentation to officers on what it was like to be in care and presented a visual/artistic version of what they wanted to see in the Pledge and this was again followed by the meeting. The mix of fun, activity and meeting seems to work and attendance has risen from 4-5 when we first started to 26 children at the last meeting.*

The next session will focus on Children in Care Council Reviews.

### **Hartlepool**

Jim Murdoch, Head of Business Unit (Young Persons)  
[Jim.Murdoch@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Murdoch@hartlepool.gov.uk)

As with a significant number of authorities, there was a very active Participation Officer in post and a great deal of involvement of young people in considering the planning and delivery of services to children looked after. A number of young people have been part of the Corporate Parenting Forum since 2004, the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum since 2006, Youth Voices and the Youth Parliament group. This is in addition to one-off consultations on specific issues, e.g. the children's complaints system. There is also an active consultation group in the sub region in respect of CAMHS. One of the groups was nominated in the Children Now awards last year for their YP Smiles initiative. A panel of young people consider applications from staff and groups to determine how much involvement young people have had in the development of services/ task etc and then award 3 levels of award dependent on the degree of involvement.

The Children in Care Council has been worked into these existing forums. The young people who became involved felt that they wanted to rename it the Young Persons Council rather than give it a label that had possible negative connotations. They are working on a set of terms of reference and this includes its relationship to the other standing groups with a view to preventing repetition.

## **Hertfordshire**

Nancy Burge, Participation Officer (Social Care)  
[nancy.burge@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:nancy.burge@hertscc.gov.uk)

A small number of young people who have been involved in the work to date are keen to meet a group of 'core' Corporate Parents to:

- Share collated experiences about 'what it is like to be in care' and 'what is most important'.
- Present the Hertfordshire pledge.
- Present the key themes which will help shape the Care Matters Action Plan.

To make this process manageable and meaningful to the young people, membership of the 'core' Corporate Parenting group will be the members of the new HCTP Children Looked After Strategy Group. Members of this strategic group and the Children in Care "Council" will meet quarterly to monitor the pledge, agree key themes for further consideration and consultation.

The first meeting was planned to take place after the pledge has been presented to Children's Services Panel with subsequent meetings being held to monitor how things are progressing and enabling feedback to young people to take place on a quarterly basis. The meetings will be arranged by the Participation Team and will be facilitated by the Participation and Voice advocacy service.

The way CLA "Councils" are run will differ between authorities. Hertfordshire is using an evidence-informed model which builds on a number of projects run by CSF Participation in partnership with Voice advocacy service and with placement and provider services, Independent Reviewing Team, Independence Support Service and social care teams.

## **Islington**

Sharon Goldman, Children's Active Involvement Service (CAIS) Manager



[sharon.goldman@islington.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.goldman@islington.gov.uk)

The council was set up at the start of 2009 and has been meeting monthly.

The council was set up for ages 12-21 with places representing different age groups. Places have not yet all been filled, particularly at the younger end. Younger children are involved in the holidays and there was an event held about the London Pledge at half term. Sessional posts for 2 care leavers for the Chair and Deputy were created. The Chair post has been filled and it is hoped that the Deputy post will be filled shortly.

The Chair has a place on the Corporate Parenting Board.

### *Lancashire County Council*

Suzy Cummings, County Participation Officer

[Suzy.Cummings@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Suzy.Cummings@lancashire.gov.uk)

Lancashire County Councils' Children in Care Council is called the Young Peoples Panel and it has been running for some time now.

The Young Peoples Panel is run as a tri-monthly day event organised and supported by Children Looked After and Care Leavers who are employed by the council as Participation Assistants. All notes from this meeting are given to the chair of the Corporate Parenting Board. The Young Peoples Panel (YPP) looks at the agenda of the corporate parenting board but also creates its own agenda item based on what is happening for Children Looked After and Care Leavers across the county.

The complaints department, IRO manager and Children's Rights Service report to the YPP to report any issues or good practise which can then also be fed up to the board. Lancashire are aiming to have a Children Looked After group in each of the county social care localities run by Participation Assistants and residential homes are being asked to gain feed back from young people about the boards' agenda and their own issues through their community meetings.

### **Liverpool**

Gill Thornton, Assistant Commissioning Manager

[Gillian.Thornton@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.Thornton@liverpool.gov.uk)

Liverpool are in the process of setting up a Children in Care Council. Questionnaires have been sent out to Looked after Children seeking their views and opinions on the constitution and format of the Children in Care Council. An action plan has been created and a steering group has been set up which is chaired by an elected member with a core group of young people supporting to deliver the plan.

### **Manchester**

Ciaran Rafferty, Service Lead for Corporate Parenting and Placements

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In order for young people's views to be heard, Manchester will be establishing Children in Care Council who will be the champions of children young people and care leavers in Manchester. Following consultation with the young person consultants they decided they would like the council to be named Care 2 Change Council (C2CC) This will help ensure that the voice of young people is at the

forefront of decision making and help quality assure Manchester's pledge for young people.

The C2CC will exist to support Manchester's children's and young people in the following ways:

- Improving outcomes for children in care and influencing the services they receive.
- To give young people a voice about issues that are important to them about the care that they receive
- To allow young people who are members of the council an open dialogue with the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member.
- For the young members of the council to be a voice for other children and young people in care.

The C2CC will achieve these aims by:

- Looking at the financial and practical resources of all parts of the council, and services it provides
- Quality assuring and monitoring Manchester's pledge to children in care.
- Ensuring careful research about the issues that will be addressed.
- Learning from good practice
- By carrying out the role as Child in Care council members with dedication, enthusiasm and commitment
- By cooperating with each other and communicate well
- By planning activities well and carrying out business in an open and honest way

Membership

Co Chairs: Director of Children's Services: Young person

Elected members: Lead Member for children and young people; Young person

Lead Member for children and young people.

Council Officers: Service Lead for Corporate Parenting and Placements; Principal Manager, Safeguarding; Deputy Principal Youth Office; Strategic lead for Education of Looked After Children

Partners and commissioned services: Young people in care and care leavers aged 13 years plus. (Supported by Children's Rights); Children's Rights Service; Barnardos Service Manager

Frequency and Format

- The CICC will meet up 4 – 6 times per year. Members of the council must show how they are improving outcomes for children and young people in care.
- The CICC will make recommendations to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the outcome of the meetings
- The Children in Care Council will report directly to the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- Elections will take place once a year
- Young people in care and care leavers, aged 13 years + can become council members but younger children should be informed. E.g. visit young people in children's homes to gather their views. There is some potential here to create a buddy system.
- Council members will be able to invite relevant service leads to address issues highlighted by the council that they want to be addressed ( these service leads should be made aware and understand their responsibility to the Care 2 Change Council)



## **Middlesbrough**

Sue Little, Children's Participation Officer  
[Sue\\_Little@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Sue_Little@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Middlesbrough are concentrating on developing their Pledge before setting up has not a Children in Care Council. There is a plan for a regional Children in Care Council event in the summer and Middlesbrough plan to be involved in this event.

## **Milton Keynes Children in Care Council**

Hilary Bendle, Corporate Parenting Officer  
[Hilary.Bendle@Milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Hilary.Bendle@Milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Milton Keynes' Children in Care Council is called Today's children, Tomorrow's future or TCTF for short. The TCTF will meet 3-4 times per year. These meetings will include children from three different stakeholder groups (8 – 11 year old, 12 – 15 year old, Care Leavers group), councillors, director, group director and assistant director. Two or Three young people from the stakeholder group will attend the TCTF on a rotation basis and they are receiving support in understanding representing other children's views in the meeting and feeding back to different stakeholder groups.

Children have used their experiences of school councils to explain their thoughts about Children in Care Councils and how they would like them to run. For a few children it was very important that there should be a rotation of children attending Children in Care Councils instead of children being selected by peers or adults.

Work for 2009 will include the development of two consultation days to include children placed in external placements. The participation worker will meet with disabled children and children under 8 to ensure that their views are brought to the agenda. Consultation will also take place via the website.

## **North East Lincs**

Alison Dear, Service Manager for Looked after Children and 16+ Services  
[Alison.Dear@Nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Dear@Nelincs.gov.uk)

Young people have contributed to a young person's pledge document. In North East Lincolnshire there are a small number of Children in Care on a long-term basis. Attempts to establish a formalised council have not proven successful at present. A number of participation events to establish communication are actively looking at incorporating aspects of the council in other ways.

## **Oxfordshire**

Sarah Lawrence and Alidja Templer, Joint-chairs of the Children In Care Council  
[sarahcicc@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahcicc@hotmail.com)

(The following has been written by the joint chairs of the Oxfordshire Children in Care Council)

Our Children in Care Council started in October 2007, when we were invited to attend some training sessions, teaching us about children's rights, participation and

involvement and equipping us with the skills to run our own meetings. At the end of the 3 training sessions, the other young people voted myself and Alidja joint-chairs. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) decided to employ us to run the council, effectively making the Children in Care Council completely ours (the young peoples). We do, however, have weekly supervision with a social worker, and amazing support from all the council. We also have our own office.

We have Children in Care Council meetings with our main council of young people every 6-8 weeks and have a very enthusiastic and dedicated group. These are arranged to take place before and after the Corporate Parenting Panel meetings so we can feedback to the councillors and the heads of service for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

The majority of our first year was spent consulting young people, professionals and carers to create a Pledge, from OCC to its young people. We then created a work plan, to ensure the Pledge was not just tokenistic, and to make sure we could keep track of who was doing what. To date, we are having great success with the work plan, and have a great involvement in many of the tasks and brilliant feedback from both professionals and young people. We are currently looking at more ways to consult a wider range of children and young people, and our Children in Care Council members have come up with some brilliant ideas.

A few examples of tasks we have made progress on from the work plan are:

- Develop induction groups for children coming into the care system that are run by the Source Workers (peer mentors for young people in care)
- To continue involvement of children and young people in the recruitment and training of foster carers - 4 young people have been trained to deliver the Preparation for Adult Life Training to carers, 1 young person has already co-facilitated a 2 day training session
- To revise leaving care information leaflets - 2 young people are receiving a £50 voucher to do this

We were also involved in the planning and running of the very successful Care Matters Conference last Takeover Day (7th November 2008), a joint conference between Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes, and are intending to take full control this year with the backing of OCC.

## **Plymouth**

Jo Short, Participation Officer (Children's Services)  
[Jo.Short@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Short@plymouth.gov.uk)

Plymouth's groups have named themselves the 'Listen and Care' Council. They have been involved in drafting the pledge. They are currently in the process of making a film about the pledge with a local theatre company. Their work has meant that young people have more involvement in the recruitment of workers including all social work candidates are part of the rolling recruitment programme. They will shortly become involved in training for new Foster Carers. They have also been invited to speak at a national 'Children in Care' conference in London and they are having regular meetings with Councillors from the Corporate Parenting Board and Senior Officers from Children's Services.

Members of the council will receive reduced cost and free access to leisure opportunities in the city.

## Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Julie Kennewell, [julie.kennewell@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:julie.kennewell@rbwm.gov.uk)

The Children in Care Council is being developed through the Corporate Parenting Working Group. The Implementation of Care Matters is one of the strategic priorities of the council and this working group is taking forward all the initiatives proposed in the chapter on Corporate Parenting, including the development of the Children in Care Council (and the Pledge, Celebration of Achievements Event, development of Corporate Parenting Strategy etc).

In order to progress the development of the Children in Care Council, a series of consultation events were organised to ascertain what children in care and leaving care felt about their experiences. There were 3 groups set up:

1. A group of children in care age 4 -9. The Family Centre arranged a Saturday fun day when the children met each other and played together in different rooms, each set up with play materials and activities relating to each of the 5 ECM Outcomes. Their comments and insights were recorded. One of the key messages was that the children enjoyed meeting other children who also had a social worker
2. A group of children in care age 10 -16 met and had time together facilitated by Norden Farm (local theatre) and the Youth Service. Activities included a drama workshop, Big Brother diary room and a graffiti board. This group has just completed a DVD with some children in care talking about their views.
3. Care Leavers age 16 - 21 met for an evening of social activities, food and voted on the issues they felt were most important to them.

The key messages from these consultations were collected and published in a series of 3 booklets and will be used to develop the Pledge and Corporate Parenting Strategy. The children and young people who took part in the events and enjoyed them have become the core membership of the Children in Care Council and are now meeting on a regular basis (every school holiday). The younger ones meet separately from the teenagers.

### Next Steps:

- To make sure the Children in Care Council is having regular direct meetings with the DCS and LM
- To develop a virtual Children in Care Council
- Involve our Children in Care Council in developing their own pages on the children and young peoples website in the Borough - known as WAMSTER
- Support the Children in Care Council for young people to make a Youth Opportunities Fund Bid to go on a Residential Trip to forge stronger links as a Children in Care Council and decide how the young people would like to develop it.
- Discussions with the 5 other Berkshire unitary authorities about developing a Berkshire wide Children in Care Council and possible Pledge.

## Sefton

Karen Gray, Children's Participation Officer, Social Care  
[Karen.Gray@cs.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Gray@cs.sefton.gov.uk)

## VOICES THAT MATTER (Children in Care Council)

In October 2007 a new group was set up to help looked after children and young people to be encouraged and supported in having their voices heard. The group is open to any child or young person, age 8yrs +, who is looked after by Sefton Council. At the moment there are 20 children signed up as members of the council with meetings held 4 times a year. The aim of the group is to support looked after children in having a say about how services are delivered and developed. To date the group have influenced how consent is gained for activities for looked after children and have designed exercises which are used to train staff attending the 'Child Centred Practice' training course. The group is facilitated by 2 care leavers with support from the Children's Participation Officer for Social Care. Each meeting is attended by the Service Manager for Looked After Children who is able to ensure that the collective voice of the group is heard at a strategic level.

In addition a Care Leavers Forum has been established for young people age 15yrs plus who have, or are currently, looked after by Sefton Council. The forum meets on a monthly basis, is facilitated by the Children's Participation Officer for Social Care and is attended by the Service Manager for Looked After Children.

### Sheffield

Dean Howson, Corporate Parenting Manager  
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The Children in Care Council in Sheffield is known locally as ACE (About Care Experience) as chosen by young people. The ACE Council is developing clearer links with the Corporate Parenting Panel, made up of cross party elected members and Senior Managers from within the Children and Young People Directorate of the City Council.

The ACE Council works alongside the Looked After and Adopted Children Strategy Group that consists of public and voluntary sector agencies. Sheffield City Council has commissioned a local voluntary sector organisation, Chilypep (Children and Young Peoples Empowerment Project), to support and develop the Council.

The ACE Council is currently an interim one made up of self nominated, care experienced young people to help establish the groundwork. Early influences of the interim council include work they did on the SCC Pledge to all Looked After and Adopted children and care leavers.

The interim ACE Council are currently involved in developing the model of constituencies to the council for the general LAAC population and the routes by which to become a 'Councillor'. ACE is working closely with A National Voice to develop and deliver training for young people who are considering becoming council members.

There will be a 'yet to be decided' Council appointment process that will see the inauguration of the official ACE Council at an event to be held in the SCC Council Chamber. The recent democratic election process used to appoint Sheffield's first Youth Council had been considered as a potential model for the ACE Council. However, early feedback suggests that certain groups, i.e. children with disabilities or BME children may continue to be underrepresented if we adopt that model as

oppose to a service by service model. This, along with alternative models, is being discussed at the current time.

The ACE Council and members of Chilypep staff have and continue to attend the Participation and Consultation group, within Children's Specialist Services, to inform and develop this area of work. Current members of ACE are being linked to Regional Participation opportunities being developed by Government Office Yorkshire and Humber.

### **Slough Borough Council**

Nikki McAuliffe, Participation Development Officer  
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After distributing letters and flyers to all of Slough's Children in Care advertising the creation of the Children in Care Council, the Participation Team held a very successful introduction and training session for potential members during the February half term week.

To start the session off, the young people participated in a drama based 'getting to know you' activity. They were then engaged in a variety of creative activities in which art materials were used to facilitate a discussion about what a Children in Care Council is and what members would be responsible for. The young people used hand shaped templates and created a poster documenting the skills and qualities they felt that a member of the Children in Care Council should be able to bring to the role. The final exercise focussed on our Local Authority Pledge and involved the young people prioritising the promises that had been collected during a six month consultation period from Children and Young People both currently in and leaving care.

There are seven young people interested in joining the Children in Care Council.

### **Somerset**

Matthew Turner, Policy and Performance Manager Children Looked After  
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The Children in Care Council (known as Care Council) in Somerset is beginning to be developed. Invitations have been sent out to all children and young people in care aged 10+. There are currently 3 boys involved in the council and Somerset are contacting young people through IROs and other staff to ascertain further interest.

### **Southend**

Trevor Willis, Team Manager Leaving Care  
[TrevorWillis@southend.gov.uk](mailto:TrevorWillis@southend.gov.uk)

The Children in Care Council (named "Voice 4 All") is attended by about 15 young people. The young people that attend come from a variety of backgrounds, some are in foster care, some living at home with their parents on care orders and some in independent living. The ages of the young people range from 14 to 18 years old and are have allocated workers from a variety of teams, including children and families, children with disabilities and leaving care. The Council is run in partnership with

the Connexions service. The meetings are held every month, however additional activities take place such as social events as well as attending regional events for children in care.

The meeting consists of a social element where members share a meal together and then a business section where the council members are able to discuss topics relevant to them as young people in care, but also young people living in Southend. The topics can range from issues relating to contact to bus times and travel costs.

The council is supported by Local Councillors, the portfolio holder for Children and Families as well as the Assistant Director and Heads of service who will all attend and listen to the points raised by the young people as well as feed back to them on the requests that they have made.

Within the council there is an elected chair, vice chair, treasurer and minute taker and the chair of Voice 4 All also has a seat on the children council within Southend.

### **Staffordshire**

Gill Stanford, Commissioner for Children, Children & Lifelong Learning,  
[gill.stanford@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gill.stanford@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Staffordshire has an established, active, well attended Children in Care Council. The group is made up of 10 young people, aged 12 – 18 years from a wide range of care backgrounds and is inclusive of children with disabilities. Staff who help to facilitate the council range from area social workers, residential workers, family support workers, participation workers and support staff.

The Council have written their own constitution and so far have directly changed strategy and helped develop children in care 'Pledge', which will be delivered in a variety of mediums (USB stick, key rings etc). They have attended cabinet and have taken part in two 11 MILLION Takeover day events where they have taken over Staffordshire's Corporate Parenting Panel, leading to changes.

A younger Children in Care Council is in development and a 'virtual' council is almost complete, using the County Council's learning platform – to enable *all* children in care to access information and stay in touch. From April '09 they will have their own small budget, which they will control. The Commissioner for Children attends the beginning of every monthly meeting in order to feedback their issues to the Corporate Parenting Panel and vice versa.

### **Suffolk**

Julia Kett, Vulnerable Children's Participation Manager  
[Julia.Kett@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.Kett@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk)

In Suffolk the participation group for looked after young people and care leavers is called Brighter Futures. It runs in 3 areas across the county and with different age groups, and has been going for about 2 and half years. Brighter Futures is about getting young people together to ultimately have fun, but also to ask their views on the services that they receive.

The Brighter Futures groups were used to develop the Children in Care Council. The groups are made up of all ages, from 6 - 25 yrs old and include children and young people with a range of abilities. The children and young people decided that there



should be representatives from each group that would come together to form the Children in Care Council and that these young people would pass on the views of all the children and young people involved. Young people who were interested in taking on such a role have formed Suffolk's Children in Care Council, re-naming themselves 'Young Voices = Big Noise'. They gain the views of other children and young people in their area through the Brighter Futures groups and then take these forward to our Corporate Parenting Board.

## **Sunderland**

John Arthurs, Development Manager (Looked After Children), Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit

[John.Arthurs@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:John.Arthurs@sunderland.gov.uk)

Sunderland has 400 children in care. There has been a consultation group of young people in Care since 1999. In 2008 this group developed and has been replaced by the Council which first formally met in September 2008. The young people resisted being called a 'Children in Care Council' due to the unfortunate habit of most people to abbreviate this to 'CICC' so they have adopted the name 'Change', with the strap line: 'Young people in care changing lives'. It is co-ordinated by the Young People's Officer.

The council has a budget of £5,000 to cover running costs, expenses, incentives, and a magazine (first issue in preparation)

'Change' meets monthly, has 18 members, including representatives from the monthly young people's meetings in the children's homes, and includes care leavers. The age range is 11 to 18 years. Representatives from 'Change' also attend the quarterly meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board of the council.

## **Surrey**

Gabrielle O'Donovan, Children's Rights Manager, Safeguarding Children Unit

[gabrielle.odonovan@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:gabrielle.odonovan@surreycc.gov.uk)

A Care Council has been set up in Surrey by expanding a 16+ Youth Forum to younger ages. The contract for this work has been placed with the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) who provide advocacy and participation services for children and young people in care. The Care Council meets monthly and representatives from the Care Council meet senior managers and councillors every 2 - 3 months at the Corporate Parent Steering Group where they bring issues that are important to young people.

Young people from the Care Council are involved in staff recruitment and training (delivering the 'Total Respect' course), write some of the 'Wazzup' magazine for children in care, and join with other participation groups in Surrey to put forward young people's views.

## **Wakefield**

Ian Walker

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Wakefield already has a very well-established representative group of young people called U'n'Us in which looked after young people and care leavers meet senior managers, elected members and dept heads such as housing, leisure services etc.

This meeting is devoted to operational changes e.g. policies and practices such as pocket money, leaving care support, access to leisure outlets etc.

The aim is to make the Children in Care Council much more of a strategic body looking at the longer term plans for improving the life chances of looked after children.

This process is just starting for Wakefield and a meeting has been convened for May to advertise the body to the looked after populace itself. From this point an election process will take place to select a representative council of young people. They will then meet with senior managers to agree the terms of reference of the group. The work undertaken with the young people is being undertaken by the independent advocacy service which is sourced out to Barnardos. The aim is for the Children in Care Council to be up and running by September 2009.

### **Warwickshire**

Moses Reid, Children in Care Participation and Development Manager  
[mosesreid@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mosesreid@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Warwickshire Children in Care Council is made up of 9 - 10 young people, Director of Children Services, two elected members, and two officers of the Children in Need Division. It has been sitting as a Council since September 2008 and meets every 6 weeks. On the 20th April 2009 a formal Launch of the Pledge and the Children in Care Council at Shirehall, Warwickshire took place. Warwickshire are currently working on their website and exploring ways to ensure that the looked after population are able to access the council. Participation is the aspect that will be worked on over the coming months.

### **West Berks**

Lorna Hunt  
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(A young person's description of how West Berkshire's Children in Care Council operates)

R:vue is West Berkshire's Children in Care Council and is for young people aged between 10 and 19. We meet regularly to eat pizza whilst trying to make being in care enjoyable. We have regular discussions about problems faced in care and are busy making a pledge that the council will discuss with us and hopefully agree to.

We've been meeting since the beginning of November. At the end of January R:vue members made a presentation to the Corporate Parenting Panel introducing the pledge and personal views of our experiences in care. We did this by creating a CD of one young person singing, running a Question of Sport style quiz, doing an ice breaker (human knot), a 'This is Your Life' film, creating works of art, and we got the members discussing which statements they felt were most important for young people in care. We're currently focusing on developing as a group and bringing together the pledge that will hopefully make a difference to the lives of young people in care across West Berkshire.

### **West Sussex:**



Susan Ellery

[Susan.Ellery@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Ellery@westsussex.gov.uk)

West Sussex have a Children in Care Council Coordinator post managed within the Youth Service to provide some independence from Social Care and to ensure that looked after children are enabled to join mainstream activities and forums.

It is anticipated that the first Children in Care Council meeting will take place over the summer and hoped that the Council will take on the task of redesigning the West Sussex Awards Ceremony as an early activity. A Members Corporate Parenting Panel has recently formed and the Children in Care Council will be the mechanism for their interface with looked after children.

### **Worcestershire:**

Lyn Speake, Corporate Parenting Engagement and Participation Worker

[LSpeake@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LSpeake@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Worcestershire's Children in Care Council was launched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 by Worcestershire's Chief Executive. The Council consists of seven young people aged 11 – 17. A competition was held to name the council and the looked after young people of Worcestershire chose 'Who Cares We Care'. The group meet every three weeks, the meetings are generally minuted and the minutes forwarded to the Corporate Parenting Board and the council also receive minutes from the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Pledge has been accepted by the CPB and a work plan compliments the Pledge. The Council has had representation on interview panels for the Director of Children's Services and the Educational Improvements Advisor (Worcestershire's Virtual Head)

Who Cares We Care have hosted a showcase evening that profiled the achievements, skills and talents of Looked After Young People aged 11 – 18 and are assisting in the planning of a spring picnic to consult with young people aged 3 – 12 years of age 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The next project is to consult with all young people, via a questionnaire, to establish the relevance and effectiveness of the Pledge.

## Appendix 3

## Update on Southwarks Children in Care Council ( to be named Speakerbox Council)

The Children's Rights Officer and 3 Speaker box members attended a Conference in Sept 2009 in Birmingham on Children in Care Councils. We attach a summary of the different ways in which other councils throughout England are trying to set up councils. Councils are at different stages and some are like Southwark in that they already had an established group which is becoming their Children in Care Council.

We have held 3 consultation events in Sept and Dec 2009, bowling , Go karting and pizzas .Discussions and exercises took place on how to set up our council. 30( to get exact no) young people ages 8-21 attended and additionally we received 15 'silent members' comments by phone and written. Roles and expectations were discussed and 10 young people agreed to be on the Council and take up positions. It was decided that the name of the council would be Speaker Box council and this would be separate to the Speaker Box group that will continue to be open to anyone and meet for various activities etc.The Speaker Box Council will have an observer status on the Southwark Youth Council.

On Feb 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting at Tooley Street of the Speaker Box Council to agree 'Terms of Reference' in young people friendly language – they might not even call it Terms of Reference ! Young People sitting on the Council have decided to call themselves 'Young Advisors ' and they will take on specialist roles to represent different care experiences eg

Children with Disabilities Advisor	(age 13 , in the Children's with Disabilities Team , will have his carer attend with him)
Adoption advisor	(age 12 , has experienced adoption)
5 Foster Care/Semi independent advisors	(ages 12-18)
Specialist Advisor/mentor for younger members & Treasurer 1	(age 22)
PR/Marketing Advisor and Treasurer 2	(age 20)
2 Young Advisors	(ages 18)
Co Chair	(age 15)
Chair	To be appointed
Speaker box Project Worker	Fariah Nanhoo

While it is not expected that loads of young people will attend regularly or want to be part of the council, the meetings will be kept to a maximum of 15 so there will usually be space for newcomers as observers who may want to join and become an Advisor.

We are planning to have a 2 day residential at Easter for team building and to train the advisors on chairing , agendas , meetings , decision making , negotiating skills, minute taking etc. The Council will meet 4 times a year plus twice with Corporate Parenting. For some meetings Chris Saunders and others would be invited to parts to discuss different areas.

Also at the Feb meeting the budget for the Council will be discussed. We anticipate requesting the following

Training Events including 1 Residential per annum	£3000
Catering for meetings and events	500
Travel Costs for Advisors	100
Allowances for attendance	1000
Admin, leaflets, tel etc expenses	400
Total	£5000

Speaker Box Group Activities – eg pizzas, outings, questionnaires and Speaker Box Magazine will have a separate budget . If the budget is agreed we have to agree procedures for signatures/approval of spending /accounts. We are discussing with Lewisham their arrangements for young people holding budgets.

We have still to be informed what support and resources would be available to us from the Southwark Corporate Team .

Caroline Essiet

Fariah Nanhoo

Jan 2010

## **Ten Golden Rules**

1. **Keep In Touch** - Visit young people at least every 6 weeks unless agreed otherwise. Phone us at other times to keep us aware of important developments.
2. **Quality Time** -The visit has to be a quality visit.  
Do not count a review as a visit
3. **Our Time** - The visits must be a minimum of one hour. Unless agreed with us. Agreement to be recorded.
4. **Respect** - Treat young people with respect always return our calls or let us know when you are available.
5. **Give Me A choice** - When you plan to visit always give us 24 hours notice as we have a life as well. We do understand if it is a Child Protection visit.
6. **On Time** - We would like our review decisions sent to us within within14 days-if this is not possible then as soon as possible afterwards but no more than a month.
7. **Our Story**- All young people should know about the Access to Records Policy.
8. **Listen Up**- Children and young people's views are important and should be taken seriously and mean something.
9. **On Our Minds**- Consultation papers to be sent out 7 days before the review and not given to us on the same day. We have the choice to write, draw, or speak views or to come up with other creative ways to show what's on our minds.
10. **Money Matters**- Children and Young people should know the amount of

## Speaker Box Southwark

pocket money as we tend to talk to each other.

11. **Save For Our future-** We should have saving accounts and if not given all our pocket money it should go into our accounts.
12. **Documents For Life-** Social workers at all times should check to see if a child / young person has a passport and birth certificate. They should clarify the child's or young person status. If this has not been achieved the reason should be recorded on file
13. **Final Respect-** Social workers should always turn up on time for meetings and visits.

Although they are called the Ten Golden Rules there are in fact 13. As young people we are allowed to be inconsistent. Young people will look these rules at yearly.

# The London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care



Making Every  
London Child Matter

## The London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care

*The London Pledge aims to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key services and support wherever they live, go to school or access employment or training opportunities in London. The London Pledge is a commitment from all Children's Trusts and their partners to all children and young people in care and leaving care. This pledge has been developed in partnership with young people, Lead Members for Children's Services and partners from the Community and Voluntary Sector.*

### Underlying Principles

**Children's Trusts, led by London Authorities, will focus on these principles when consulting on and delivering the London Pledge promises and any additional local commitments. Children's Trusts will ask children and young people in care how they would like these principles to be measured.**

1. We will only promise you things that we know we can do.
2. We will care for you as an individual person with your own specific needs which we will plan to meet.
3. You will have the opportunity to talk to your social worker alone every time he/she visits you.
4. We will always involve you in the decisions we take for you and we will respect your right to make choices about your life.
5. We aim to be the best as parents and to make your experience of being looked after a positive one.
6. We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.
7. We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you.
8. We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.
9. We will take account of your particular needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality. We will take account of anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it, including anyone treating you unfairly because you are in care.
10. We will ensure you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
11. We will also ensure you receive your London Pledge entitlements, wherever you live. Any failure on the part of Councils and their Children's Trust partners to deliver this will be promptly resolved.



## **We will support you to Be healthy**

**We will work together across London to ensure you have access to a range of health services that promote and support your emotional, physical and mental health. We will support you to make healthy and positive choices for your lives.**

- 12.** We will work to make sure that doctors, dentists and other health professionals are trained to understand your individual needs and listen to your problems so they can give you the best possible support and treatment.
- 13.** We will work with others to ensure that you get better access to the information you need and the right support to help you with any health or emotional difficulties you may have, especially if you live outside your home authority.
- 14.** We will ensure we have good systems in place to share information across borough boundaries so you do not miss out on medical appointments because you move areas.
- 15.** Parents or carers will have access to information, services and support that will help them to care for you and give them the skills they need to ensure you have the best chances in life and you are healthy and safe.
- 16.** We will ensure that you receive your vaccinations, dental checks and other health checks at the right time and you and your carers are given the relevant information to support you in accessing healthcare services
- 17.** When appropriate we will ensure that you have access to the relevant sexual health information and support to enable you to make positive choices about your future.
- 18.** We will make sure you have opportunities to develop your personal and social skills to care for your health and wellbeing now and in the future.





## **We will ensure you can Stay Safe**

**We will work together across London to keep you safe from harm, from individuals and your environment. We will ensure you know how and where to access help if you feel you are being threatened or hurt and we will ensure professionals and carers know how to support those who have been harmed or hurt. We will not move you from a placement in which you are happy and settled unless there is a good welfare reason for doing so.**

- 19.** All agencies will work to prevent you suffering harm and to promote your welfare, provide you with the services you require to address your needs and to safeguard those of you who are being or who are likely to be harmed.
- 20.** We will have clear arrangements and protocols in place to safeguard you if you run away or go missing from care. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed.
- 21.** We will involve you in the selection of staff working with or for children and young people and the training of new social workers and foster carers.
- 22.** We will ensure you get good information about your placement and a proper introduction to your carers (unless you have to move in an emergency). When you are moved to a new area you will receive information about the area and how to access services.
- 23.** We will ensure you have access to youth support services and a Connexions adviser. If you need it, additional guidance relating to your personal health and safety is available.
- 24.** If you get into trouble with the police and end up in custody we will make sure the most suitable person comes along to support you.
- 25.** We will do our best to give you a choice in the selection of your own foster carer or placement.
- 26.** We will do our best to reduce the number of changes of social worker you experience while you are in care.



## **We will support you to Enjoy and Achieve**

### **Enjoy**

**We will work together to ensure that you have access to a broad range of positive activities and opportunities that provide you with places to go and things to do wherever you are. We will work together across borough boundaries to ensure that access to good quality social, cultural and leisure activities feature strongly in placement arrangements.**

27. We will encourage and help you to access good quality affordable social, cultural and leisure activities, both in your community and across London.
28. We will work to provide you with a free leisure card by 2011 to access facilities across London up to the age of 21. This may include free access to gyms, swimming pools and major cultural attractions.
29. We will support you to purchase a bike and safety equipment and we will organise proficiency training if it is something that you would like and that your carers agree.

### **Achieve**

**We will work together across London to support you to achieve five A\* to G at GCSE or equivalents. We will ensure you have better access to personal computers and other materials you may need for your education and support to access the full range of educational opportunities open to your peers. We will pay particular attention to supporting you at key transition stages in your lives and ensure that you and your carers have access to the information, advice and guidance that supports you to make the right choices about your future.**

30. We will work with schools, colleges and universities to ensure that you are championed to succeed in your education. In school you will have the support of your designated teacher and a governor champion and you will have a high quality, clear and up to date Personal Education Plan which will meet your needs and push you to succeed.
31. If you are leaving care for university or vocational training we will ensure your Pathway Plan is clear about the support you will receive, including our financial contribution to your studies.
32. We will make sure you have access to a computer and materials needed for your education and training. We aim to provide you with a laptop or computer at Key Stage 3 and beyond and appropriate software, providing you remain in education and training.
33. Where appropriate we will support you to access vocational opportunities and/or apprenticeships that will enable you to achieve your full potential.

## **We will empower you to Make a Positive Contribution**

**We will work together across London to ensure your voice is heard and you are able to participate fully in decision making about your own lives and the services that affect you. You will have the opportunity for your achievements to be recognised and your successes celebrated and to contribute fully to the society in which you live.**

- 34.** We will consult you about all our services that affect you.
- 35.** We will make sure that you know your rights and what services you are entitled to by putting this down in writing for you. We will also agree with you what we expect from you and put it down in writing.
- 36.** We will organise meetings for children and young people who are looked after by a Council in London so we can hear from you about how you think we can best plan to meet your needs as a group and you can tell us whether we are keeping our promises. We will also make sure those who are not part of meetings or a children in care council have their say.
- 37.** We will celebrate and promote your achievements with you, as well as the contribution you make to the community. This will also include marking your birthday, your religious festivals and making sure you have a copy of your school photo and reports.
- 38.** In cooperation with your parents or carers we will ensure you have a passport or know why you don't have one.
- 39.** Once you get to 16 years old we will ask you whether you want a mentor (e.g. 16+ worker) and arrange one for you if this will be helpful.
- 40.** We will also offer you the chance to set up and participate in a peer mentoring programme for London. This will involve care leavers supporting young people still in care to grow and achieve.
- 41.** In addition to your social worker, carer, family member, Independent Reviewing Officer and designated teacher, we will make sure there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.  
  
We will also support you to contact your lead Councillor, Director of Children's Services and senior managers, as necessary and you will be listened to by them.
- 42.** We will work with others to provide you with information about volunteering and access to opportunities to help others.

## **We will equip you to achieve Economic Wellbeing**

**We will support you to achieve economic independence and wellbeing as you progress into adulthood. We recognise you will need certain skills and support to live independently and we will take the relevant steps to prepare you effectively for independence and the world of employment.**

- 43.** We will open a savings account for you if you have been in care for more than 12 months and will make agreed payments into your account for you. You will have a say about how your money is managed and you will be able to start taking money out once you reach the age of 18.
- 44.** Where appropriate, we will support you to learn to drive where this will help you get into training and the right job.
- 45.** When the time comes for you to leave care we will listen to and act on your views about the services and support you need to help you become an independent adult (including accommodation, further/ higher education, training and employment).
- 46.** We will ensure that when you leave school you will receive an offer of education, employment or training. This will include access to a careers adviser and an information and guidance session.
- 47.** We will provide work experience opportunities and training or apprenticeships to help young people in and leaving care to develop their CV and find employment. This will include young people over the age of 18 and a range of different types of work experience and advice.



For an online version of the London Pledge and contact details of where children and young people can access local information about their rights and their Council, please go to [www.younglondonmatters.org](http://www.younglondonmatters.org)

Children and young people will also be able to call the children's contact line number of the Children's Rights Director for information and support - **Free Phone: 0800 528 0731**



Young London  
Matters

LONDON  
COUNCILS

your  
Rights!  
your say  
www.rights4me.org



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR LONDON

ALDCS

Association of London  
Directors of Children's  
Services

Making Every  
London Child Matter

## Appendix 6

### Update on Speaker Box's position on the London Pledge.

Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services have been asked to sign up to the London Pledge, which is a common set of core principles and promises to which each Council will add its own locally agreed pledges.

The London Pledge has been developed by way of a number of consultations events involving London Local Authorities, Members, Senior Officers and Young People. Speaker Box did a presentation at the launch of the London Pledge at the Oval with Young London, Roger Morgan Director of Children's Rights and DCSF.

The London Pledge is set out under the headings of the five Every Child Matters outcomes, which children and young people said were important to them.

The London Pledge has been discussed with Speaker Box members and it has been circulated through the Speaker Box magazine . 3 Speaker Box members also attended a conference in Birmingham in 2009 on Children in Care Councils where Council Pledges were discussed .

Speaker Box want to keep our own '10 Golden Rules' which will be updated regularly at the Speaker Box Council. Many Local authorities have also done their own Pledges and either not signed up to the London Pledge or signed up to just part . We think Southwark can adapt the London Pledge which would be acceptable to our young people.

We attach the London Pledge.. Most of the 46 pledges are ok. However the following pledges need some work or to be excluded. We will be discussing these further with LAC Services and agree a final version by mid year/ next Corporate Parenting committee we attend.

No 11	Resource Implications
No22	Further discussion needed
No25	Resource Implications
No26	Further Discussion
No 27	Resource Implications
No 28 &28	Resource Implications
No 29	Resource implications
No 30	Further Discussion
No 32	Resource Implications
No 35	Resource Implications (for leaflets)
No 39&40	Further discussion /word changing
No41	Further Discussion
No43	Resource implications
No 44	Resource implications
No 46	Further discussion /wording

Caroline Essiet  
Fariah Nanhoo

Jan 2010

## Appendix 7

**Southwark Children's Service****JOB DESCRIPTION****JOB TITLE:** Children in Care Council (Speakerbox) Project Worker**SERVICE AREA/ESTABLISHMENT/SECTION:** Children' Services / Specialist Services and Safeguarding Division / Quality Assurance Unit**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Corporate Parenting Group / QAU Service Manager for LAC  
Childrens Rights and Participation Worker**RESPONSIBLE FOR:** N/A**HOURS OF WORK:****PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:**

Speakerbox is Southwark's Children in Care (CIC) Council. It consults with children in the Council's care on issues to do with participation, their care, and their concerns and represents their views to Southwark Council via the Corporate Parenting Committee, Young Southwark and Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB). Speakerbox is the formal mechanism for CIC to have their views directly influence the strategic decisions affecting their lives.

The Speakerbox Project Worker will help facilitate the Speakerbox Group and its various projects and liaise with the Corporate Parenting Board, Young Southwark and SSCB.

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. To help with the day to day running of Speakerbox including advocating for children and young people; collating research material; assisting with editing the termly Speaker Box Magazine; designing leaflets and other communications with CIC; undertaking administrative duties such as recording and typing minutes; making phone calls to young people; mail outs.
2. To help promote the Speakerbox consultation group to children and young people looked after by Southwark Council, foster carers and social workers.
3. Co-facilitate the presentation of Speakerbox views to the Corporate parenting Committee
4. Co-facilitate the Speakerbox group meetings with the support of The Children's Rights and Participation Worker.
5. Participate in and provide training and presentations to children and young people, workers groups, other groups as required.



6. Apply the principles of equality and diversity to include children and young people from a range of backgrounds including those with special needs or disabilities.
7. To take responsibility for continually evaluating the impact of consultation on children and young people and assist in the annual review of the consultation group with the Children Rights and Participation Worker.
8. To lead or co-lead a number of relevant participation and consultation or training projects identified by Speakerbox
9. To assist in keeping finance records for Speakerbox Projects
10. To Liaise with a network of agencies on matters relating to Speakerbox

### **YOUR SKILLS:**

#### **Essential**

Be a Southwark Looked after young person or eligible , relevant or former relevant young person as defined by the Children Leaving Care Act 2000.

Basic literacy & numerical and IT skills with a willingness to develop further skills

### **Desired Skills or potential to learn the following skills**

- Good attendance and timekeeping
- Able to work well in a team and independently
- Able to interact and communicate with variety of professionals and children and families including speaking in group situations
- Able to organise their work load and work to deadlines
- Basic report and letter writing and account keeping

### **YOUR COMMITMENT:**

**Conditions of Work** per week by agreement; these will include flexible working and require attendance during some working days in normal office hours and some evening or weekend meetings with young people or Councillors and Council Officers.

**This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.**



<b>Item No.</b> 10.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2009	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Proposed Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Strategy and Partnerships	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the proposed new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2010 to 2013 and its implications for the Corporate Parenting Committee.
2. To note that this proposed CYPP will be subject to final partner and public consultation, as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10, with publication by April 2010.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009, amends the Children Act 2004 to enable the establishment of a children's trust board. It is therefore expected that, from April 2010 children's trusts will become a statutory body and the duty to cooperate will be further strengthened, including the addition of relevant partners, and requirements on the CYPP to set out local arrangements.
4. By April 2011, it is expected that the CYPP will need to meet new requirements as set out in draft statutory guidance, which is currently out for consultation. We anticipate that this guidance will require the CYPP, as the joint commissioning strategy of children's trust partners, to set out in detail how partners will cooperate to improve wellbeing for children, young people and their families. It will need to show how partners will commission services to address locally identified needs, integrate provision better and focus on early intervention, safeguarding and reducing the impact of child poverty on outcomes. The CYPP will be expected to set out what actions will be delivered by which partner or partnership and what resources they will commit. The CYPP set out in appendix 1 will form the strategy for these developments.
5. In addition, proposed Working Together [to safeguard children] guidance indicates that the children's trust, from April 2010, should draw on support and challenge from the local safeguarding children board. It is anticipated this will form the basis of a new annual safeguarding report from the safeguarding board to the children's trust board that will set out what improvements need to be made locally to improve safeguarding. In response, from April 2011, the CYPP is likely to need to set out what needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes for safeguarding in a local area in line with the annual safeguarding report recommendations. This could impact on a range of council and partnership wide delivery arrangements in the future.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The corporate parenting committee may wish to take note of the five priority areas -

**Thinking families** – families at the centre of all we do.

**Narrowing the gap** – better life chances for all.

**Raising the bar** – high-quality provision that meets local needs.

**Succeeding into adulthood** – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing.

**Working Together** – to safeguard children from harm.

7. The two commissioning intentions with specific reference to looked after children include –

### **Looked after children achieving their educational potential**

*You can expect...* More looked after children and young people attending school, realising their educational potential and overcoming the gap in achievement with their peers. They can expect partners to be working together to maximise local expertise and provision, offer flexible, quality educational opportunities appropriate to their need, and support them when changing schools.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
Better use the variety of expertise and services available across children's trust partners to help keep looked after children in education and support them in achieving their educational potential	Greater numbers of looked after children achieving their learning and educational potential
Manage the transition of looked after children from one educational setting to another	To further narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and their peers
Are flexible and able to respond to the educational needs of looked after children wherever they are placed	More looked after children attending school or an equivalent

### **Looked after young people succeed as young adults**

*You can expect...* More looked after young people living in a stable placement, taking up education, employment or training, and managing independent lives successfully. All partners will bring together their services to support those under 22 years into adulthood, and specialist expertise will be available to ensure the most vulnerable are safeguarded.

We will commission services that...	As a result, we expect...
<p>Consolidate what's on offer across council, children's trust and local strategic partnership partners for looked after children aged 16 to 21 to support them to move successfully into adulthood</p> <p>Provide tailored support for those that need it in order to succeed in adulthood and be independent</p> <p>Ensure a multi-agency response that draws on a range of specialist services and expertise for looked after young people with very complex needs</p>	<p>More looked after young people in education training and employment</p> <p>More stability in placements</p> <p>More care leavers managing their lives successfully as young adults</p> <p>Better safeguarding of those at risk of harm to themselves and others through improved specialist support</p>

### Community Impact Statement

8. The work of the children's trust and the CYPP has wide-reaching implications for all children, young people and families, including the most vulnerable. A key underpinning principle will be to ensure it embeds considerations of equalities and human rights throughout its development, action and review. We are currently working to mainstream equalities in all aspects of the work such as the needs assessment, stakeholder engagement and performance review arrangements. The CYPP and children's trust will be underpinned by a range of equality impact assessments in line with the corporate model and approach.

### Consultation

9. The proposed CYPP as set out in Appendix 1 is being considered and agreed by other children's trust partners, the PCT and the police, in line with statutory requirements. This will be completed when Council Assembly considers the proposed plan on March 24 2010. In addition, members are being consulted through the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Corporate Parenting Board, as well as an open members' seminar to which all ward members were invited.
10. A programme of formal public consultation on the proposed CYPP is planned in line with statutory guidance and local requirements, and will take place in late February/early March. There has been widespread involvement of partners and stakeholders to date, including children, young people, parents and frontline staff.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Statutory Guidance on cooperation arrangements including the children's trust board and the children and young people's plan	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Elaine Allegretti 53816
Young Southwark - Statutory Changes to Children's Trust Board Executive Report July 2009	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Elaine Allegretti 53816
Children and Young People's Plan Guidance 2009 (January 2009)	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Elaine Allegretti 53816
Children's Trust: Statutory Guidance on inter agency cooperation to improve wellbeing of children, young people and their families (November 2008)	Southwark Council Strategy and Partnerships Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Elaine Allegretti 53816

**APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix</b>	
Appendix 1	Draft Southwark Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Romi Bowen, Strategic Director of Children's Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Elaine Allegretti, Head of Strategy and Partnerships	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	5 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>	5 February 2010	

**APPENDIX 1**

Draft CYPP 2010-2013

**2010-2013****Children and Young People's Plan****Welcome**

We are pleased to introduce our Children and Young People's Plan for 2010 to 2013. It has been developed in an unprecedented environment, with a transformed statutory landscape and the harshest economic climate seen in decades.

We have not shied away from these challenges. We see this as a historic opportunity to reshape what services we offer to ensure they better meet the needs of the children, young people and the families we serve.

We are clear and committed to driving through the major changes we and our communities need. This means making sure services are of the highest quality and are based on evidence of need, and ensuring that everything we do makes the difference we expect. We will also work to enable families and the community to raise their children and solve their problems independently.

We will ensure our efforts and resources work best for our communities and are targeted only on the priorities identified in this plan. We will decide together how we will target our limited resources for maximum effect. Sometimes this means knowing what to stop as well as which new directions to take to make sure we get the best value and have the biggest impact.

We will be focused on tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty and improving family life. We recognise the importance of having a home and neighbourhood you enjoy living in, and will work make sure vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and families have the best chances in life.

We will focus our efforts and resources on acting early to try and prevent problems where we can. We will also harness the expertise and resources of schools, health partners and the voluntary and community sector – everyone who is involved in the lives of children, young people and families in Southwark.

Now that we have agreed our priorities, we are committed to creating a workforce able to achieve our vision. This means greater efforts towards working together to ensure that we are all focused on increasing families' independence and helping children and young people flourish.

We are proud of how we listen to the voice of our communities – and it is at the heart of this plan. Our priorities were developed by involving those who have the biggest stake in our borough – our children, young people, parents, carers, staff and practitioners. Together we aspire to shape the borough for the better and to ensure every child, young person, family and community thrives.

[Signatures of all Young Southwark executive members to be included]

## How was the plan developed?

Understanding the views of children, young people, families and staff is very important to us, and we are committed to making sure they influence how services are designed and run. These views are more than an 'add on' – they are a central part of our needs assessment and support our understanding of what is working well, not so well and where we need to change things.

When developing this plan, we wanted a way in which all evidence and the views of stakeholders, particularly children, young people and families, could inform the plan's commitments.

We began by using comprehensive performance data and a high-level service review to identify themes and areas. Then we went out into our communities and workforce, and asked them to tell us a story. We organised more than a dozen events, which included Saturday family sessions, as well as activities specifically for children and young people in libraries, a festival and schools.

We were honoured and delighted that more than 1,000 children, young people, parents, carers, staff and practitioners responded. Their stories tell of the ups and downs of growing up in Southwark, of the challenges and celebrations of local families, and of the difference we can make when we get things right, and where sometimes we are getting things wrong.

The stories told us about childcare and schools and activities for young people, about life with children with special needs, about crime and healthcare, about being a new parent, growing up or being a grandparent. They also told us about dedicated people who helped make a difference and of frustrated times when it was not clear where to turn.

Many spoke of pride of living or working in Southwark – all provided fresh insights into family life and gave us a powerful evidence base to inform this plan. We also involved young people, parents and practitioners in helping us to make sense of the stories, particularly in relation to some of the emerging cross-cutting themes and supporting the interpretation of evidence such as data.

The stories have been especially powerful in helping us to understand where and how we need to do things differently, but also helping us to build on what children, young

people and families are telling us is working well and their ideas for making it work even better.

We are proud of our communities' contribution and have published a selection as a companion to this plan, alongside a summary of the comprehensive needs assessment used to shape it.

The involvement of children, young people, families and staff does not stop with the plan's publication. Just as they helped shape it, we will ensure they play an equally important role reviewing and challenging our progress. Together, we can shape the borough for the better.



## How does the plan fit with national priorities?

This plan recognises and addresses the far-reaching implications of statutory changes to children's trusts, Children and Young People's Plans and the roles of lead members and directors of children's services, which came into force on 1 April 2010.

By April 2011, this plan, as the joint strategy of children's trust partners, will set out in detail how we will cooperate to improve wellbeing for children, young people and their families. It will show how we as partners will commission services to address locally identified needs, integrate provision better and focus on early intervention, safeguarding and reducing the impact of child poverty on life chances. The plan will also set out what actions will be delivered by which partner or partnership, and what resources they will commit.

This plan informs a wider range of planning arrangements, including borough and council-wide strategic and partnership plans and those that impact on life chances for children, such as our spatial plan and the PCT Strategic Commissioning Plan. The plans of partners form a complex array of inter-related strategic, commissioning and operational plans with their children and family aspects aligned through the plan and informing operational planning for frontline services.

This plan is central to future inspection arrangements of both the council and partners alike. In addition, *Working Together to Safeguard Children* guidance has set out how the children's trust should draw on support and challenge from the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board. This work is ongoing and will form the basis of a new annual safeguarding report from the safeguarding board to the children's trust board.

This will set out what improvements needs to be made locally to improve safeguarding. and, in response, this plan will include what needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes for safeguarding in a local area in line with the annual safeguarding report recommendations.

## Our vision

“Every child, young person and family in Southwark has high expectations and the best opportunities. We will work together in a way that makes a difference, helps overcome inequality and disadvantage, and increases families’ abilities to raise their children successfully. We will work to increase independence and build the capacity of children, young people and families to have healthy and independent lives, feel safe and secure, and achieve their full potential.”

In order to achieve this, we will work in partnership across five priorities:

- **Thinking family** – families at the centre of all we do
- **Narrowing the gap** – better and more equal life chances for all
- **Raising the bar** – high-quality provision that meets local needs
- **Succeeding into adulthood** – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing
- **Working together** – children are safeguarded from harm

## **A new way of working**

This plan represents our commitment to work in new and different ways. We are committed to focusing our efforts and resources on ensuring we enhance the abilities and strengths of our children, young people and families and to removing the barriers to them fulfilling their potential.

In modernising and redesigning our services, we will align or redirect resources according to the priorities agreed in this plan to improve their life chances in the most efficient and effective way possible.

This model of commissioning has major implications for the way we work and provide services, for our policy and practice, and for the competencies of our workforce.

We have developed a range of strategies which set out what we agree we need to do to ensure we meet the commitments set out in this plan – they are the plan’s enablers and building blocks.

Collectively they provide the vehicles for implementing the plan’s priorities, be that through information sharing protocols, models for commissioning third sector involvement or ways to work in a more integrated way.

[detail of supporting strategies to come]

They will explain in more detail the scope and priorities for universal, preventative and specialist services, as well as addressing the needs of cross-cutting issues such as the involvement of the third sector, our action to address child poverty and the development needs of our workforce.

## Our principles and values

We, Young Southwark, agree to follow these principles and values when jointly commissioning services across the partnership to create better futures for children, young people and families.

The framework they create will both inform how we commission services by and through the children's trust board, and be used to challenge the decisions of the partnership and all partners.

The children's trust board will continue to work throughout the duration of this plan to ensure that these principles and values are shared and understood by all partners.

### **This framework sets out:**

- 1. Our values for working together as partners and a community to improve the life chances of local children, young people and families**
- 2. Our principles for redesigning services**
- 3. Our commitments to share accountability for achieving local priorities**
- 4. Our quality pledge for services based on what children, young people, families and people working with them have told us are important**

### **1. Our values for working together as partners and a community to improve the life chances of local children, young people and their families**

We will be ambitious for our children, young people, their families and the community. Our starting point is that parents and carers are best placed to promote their child's wellbeing.

All partners will share responsibility for achieving the priorities in this plan, working together to carry out the changes needed locally.

We will jointly prioritise and decide what action we need to take to address local priorities and issues.

We will work to build social capital in our communities to help respond to local priorities.

## **2. Our principles for redesigning services**

Our services will be shaped by the needs of our communities. We will look to offer services as locally as possible and will always prioritise the use of resources on the commitments in this plan.

At all times, we will work together to simplify the local system and improve its value for money and effectiveness.

Our role in keeping children and young people safe has been central to the development of all the commitments in this plan, and will inform all actions overseeing and implementing them.

When redesigning services, we will make shared choices about where, when and how we narrow the gap in individual or group outcomes.

We will think creatively and be open to the opportunities of doing things in new ways.

When decisions impact on other partners, we will decide together what we are going to do differently or stop doing.

When changing the way we do things, we will be clear and realistic about the impact we want to have.

We will target early intervention and preventative services to help further strengthen and build capacity in universal services to meet needs earlier and more effectively.

We will ensure specialist services help to support the development of strong universal and targeted services as the bedrock of local provision.

We will make the most and appropriate use of specialist services and non-statutory and community partners so that resources are targeted at those most in need.

## **3. Our commitments to share accountability for achieving local priorities**

As the children's trust board, we have a clear and separate identity while working within the wider co-operation arrangements to improve the life chances of children, young people and families across the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

We will work together to develop and equip a workforce that can deliver the changes needed at all levels across the partnership.

We will strengthen our partnership-wide priorities and areas for service improvement with robust and systematic performance, risk management and evaluation systems.

Our shared focus is to improve the life chances for children and young people and families while recognising the need to respond to inspection and regulation requirements.

We will make sure that we are clear about the roles, responsibilities and resources each partner brings to achieve the priorities in this plan.

We will seek to continually improve as a local area and will benchmark our performance against local and national best practice, and evidenced-based models.

We will use our shared commitment to local priorities to challenge each other and the solutions we develop as a partnership.

#### **4. Our quality pledge for services based on what children, young people, families and people working with them have told us are important**

Every service will be measured for its impact against the following pledges:

- Our services will be of high quality and **make a positive difference** to the lives of children, young people and families
- They will seek to **build the ability and resilience** of children, young people and their families to be independent
  - We will make use of family, community and social networks, and ensure every staff member, agency and partner acts to support independence
  - Where children, young people and their families have additional needs, there will be clear pathways that they and practitioners can use, and where appropriate they are supported in their transition between services
- They will ensure children and young people are **safeguarded** in all we do
  - Each staff member, agency and partner will have the skills and knowledge to take appropriate action for those identified at risk of harm

- We will ensure the system is fit to deliver the step change in local arrangements to protect children from harm
- At all times they work to **narrow the gap** and improve life chances for all
  - We will recognise the importance of outreach and parental engagement in designing and providing services
- They will improve the use of **integrated** working practices
  - We will use local and national common tools and processes, and ensure information sharing and the role of the lead professional are central to how we deliver services in partnership with families and other agencies
  - We will recognise children and young people as part of families and ensure the family story is understood and respected when families interact with our services//a range of council and children's trust partners

## **Our local priorities and the results we expect**

### **Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do**

- Simplifying how you access services and information about them
- Improving the quality, suitability and range of activities for children and young people
- Independence for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families
- Children and families being a healthy weight
- Supporting vulnerable families through an effective continuum of parenting provision (TBC)

### **Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all**

- Better health for babies, infants and mothers
- Early years provision that meets the needs of vulnerable children
- Looked after children achieving their educational potential
- Raising the achievement of those groups falling behind

### **Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs**

- Children are school ready and schools are child ready
- Every school and setting aspires to excellence
- Schools and settings are able to meet their students' needs
- Raising attainment at 19

### **Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing**

- More young people in education, employment or training
- Looked after young people succeed as young adults
- Less crime by and against young people
- Lower rates of teenage conceptions

### **Working together – children are safeguarded from harm**

- A stronger family-based approach to safeguarding
- Services that meet the needs of our children and community
- Fewer children and families experiencing domestic abuse



## Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

### *Our priority is...* **Simplifying how you access services and information about them**

*You can expect...* To find it easier to learn about and use universal services covering birth to adulthood. Age, culture or level of need or resources will not be a barrier because we will reach out in ways most appropriate to our diverse communities. You will also see more parents shaping services and participating in their community, empowered by strong local networks.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
Put in one, easily accessible place, information on what is universally available for children, young people and families, up to aged 19	Children, young people, parents and practitioners report a better experience when accessing information, advice and guidance
Make better use of existing community providers of information and services to children, young people and families	A more streamlined information service and improved performance across a range of areas as targeted by outreach activities
Better coordinate and target outreach and parental engagement activities to narrow the gap in life chances	A robust infrastructure which supports parental engagement at all levels and is central to how we improve services

## Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

### *Our priority is...* Improving the quality, suitability and range of activities for children and young people

*You can expect...* More children and young people choosing to play, volunteer, participate and be active in Southwark. More will be shaping services, being part of their community and participating in the decisions that affect their lives – and those who are vulnerable will find the support and opportunities they need to get back on track and realise their potential.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Bring together a borough-wide offer of good-quality play opportunities and activities for children and young people which also meet the needs of at-risk groups</p> <p>Provide young people with opportunities to be active citizens and participate in their local community</p>	<p>Improved quality and suitability of youth provision in the borough</p> <p>A well communicated and coordinated programme of activities for young people that meets a range of local needs</p> <p>More children and young people participating in activities such as volunteering, contributing to the decisions that affect their lives and involved in planning and evaluating youth work</p>

## Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

***Our priority is...* Independence for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families**

*You can expect...* Services focused on building the capacity and skills in children, young people and their families to be more independent and enable them to make better use of a wider range of local opportunities and services. You can also expect a more streamlined, consistent approach to transition between life stages or services.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Improve the experience of children, young people and their families moving from early years to school and from children's to adult services</p>	<p>A more streamlined, consistent approach to transition between services or life stages, and for children, young people and their families to report a better experience</p>
<p>Provide care and short break support to enable children, young people and their families to make the most of universal services such as local leisure facilities and childcare placements</p>	<p>More children, young people and families receiving care and short breaks outside the home and choosing to use a wider range of local facilities</p>
<p>Build the capacity of children, young people and families to live independent lives at all key stages of their development, from birth to young adulthood</p>	<p>Children, young people and their families with the skills to enable them to lead more independent lives and better use the range of opportunities available to them</p>

## Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do

### *Our priority is...* **Children and families being a healthy weight**

*You can expect...* Partners to be more active in encouraging children, young people and families to live healthy lifestyles and to improve how we identify those in need of support. Children, young people and families with unhealthy weights can expect effective tailored services that meet their needs by bringing together the right mix of advice, treatments and providers.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Enable children, young people and families to maintain a healthy weight through effective early intervention and prevention activity</p> <p>Target those at risk of an unhealthy weight through tailored advice and support, and help reduce the prevalence of overweight children, young people and families</p> <p>Develop a range of effective treatments for anorexia, obesity and other weight disorders through timely, multi-component, family-based interventions</p>	<p>Reduced rates of overweight children in key at-risk groups</p> <p>Lower rates of childhood obesity at year 6 and reception</p>

## Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

### *Our priority is...* **Better health for babies, infants and mothers**

*You can expect...* Antenatal support that is high quality, coordinated and accessible, and more pregnant women using it earlier in their pregnancy. There will be fewer deaths in infancy and more babies will have good health. Practitioners will be working more closely with partners and better able to identify and take action to support families with additional needs.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Provide a coordinated approach to ensure women can access high-quality antenatal support at an earlier stage of pregnancy</p> <p>Promote the health of children in their early years including improving joint working between health visitors and early years services to identify families in need of targeted support, and to establish effective pathways for practitioners working with families with additional needs</p>	<p>A reduction in infant mortality rates</p> <p>A higher percentage of women seeing a midwife or a maternity healthcare professional by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy</p> <p>Higher MMR immunisation rates at age 2, and more infants being breastfed at 6–8 weeks</p> <p>A more efficient and effective approach to assessing a child's health needs that leads to improved health for the child</p>

## Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

### *Our priority is...* **Early years provision that meets the needs of vulnerable children**

*You can expect...* Settings have the necessary skills and access to appropriate expert support to ensure vulnerable children achieve better health, wellbeing and educational outcomes. Parents will get better support in understanding and dealing with their and their child's needs. Children's centres will be the hub of services, working with partners to provide seamless, effective support.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Meet the social and emotional needs of children and better support parents in the development of their child's social and emotional needs</p> <p>Provide suitable early years placements for vulnerable groups such as children with a child protection plan, children in need and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities</p> <p>Supports local developments and needs in line with the revised Healthy Child Programme continuum for those with additional needs</p>	<p>To narrow the gap in achievement at foundation stage profile for the lowest achieving 20%, and for PSED and CLLD scales and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>Better joined-up support for children and families through Sure Start children centre hubs across the network of early years practitioners, providers and settings</p>

## Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

### *Our priority is...* **Looked after children achieving their educational potential**

*You can expect...* More looked after children and young people attending school, realising their educational potential and overcoming the gap in achievement with their peers. They can expect partners to be working together to maximise local expertise and provision, offer flexible, quality educational opportunities appropriate to their need, and support them when changing schools.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Better use the variety of expertise and services available across children's trust partners to help keep looked after children in education and support them in achieving their educational potential</p> <p>Manage the transition of looked after children from one educational setting to another</p> <p>Are flexible and able to respond to the educational needs of looked after children wherever they are placed</p>	<p>Greater numbers of looked after children achieving their learning and educational potential</p> <p>To further narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and their peers</p> <p>More looked after children attending school or an equivalent</p>

## Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all

### *Our priority is...* **Raising the achievement of those groups falling behind**

*You can expect...* More children and young people reaching at least the educational achievement of their national peers. Their schools will be more strategic, coherent and effective in targeting pupil underachievement and sharing good practice. The aspirations of children, young people and their families will also be higher through their greater use of activities and services in and out of school.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Target cohorts of children and young people to help buck the trend of key underachieving pupils</p> <p>Ensure good practice and learning is spread across the whole system</p> <p>Be targeted in our approach to raising the aspirations of children, young people, their parents and the community through an improved range of coordinated in-school and out-of-school provision</p>	<p>Continued improvements in achievement and attainment up to the age of 19, to approach and exceed national figures</p> <p>A further narrowing of the gap between underachieving groups and their peers</p> <p>Improved quality and range of provision both in and out of school, and greater take-up</p> <p>More coherence and strategic drive to initiatives that support curriculum and staff development</p>



## Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

*Our priority is...* **Children are school ready and schools are child ready**

*You can expect...* All children able to access high-quality early years settings which address their child's social, emotional, physical and learning needs so they are well prepared for the challenge of starting school. Schools will be better informed about the needs of their children and will be able to support them whatever stage of development the child has achieved.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Are high quality, age appropriate and help prepare children for school by supporting them to participate and achieve early learning skills</p> <p>Ensure there are sufficient school places that meet all the needs of local children irrespective of their developmental stage and where possible close to their home</p> <p>Better support the transition of children from early years to school settings so their social, emotional, physical and learning needs are met</p>	<p>More children able to access good-quality early years settings</p> <p>Improved achievement in the early years foundation stage and at KS1</p> <p>More children to access places in local schools that meet their requirements</p>

## Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

*Our priority is...* **Every school and setting aspires to excellence**

*You can expect...* More families choosing a Southwark school or setting because standards are higher, and more children and young people realising their potential. Schools can expect quality services and strong leadership from the local authority and, as leaders too, will be working together and with partners to ensure every child, young person, family and community thrives.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Enable children and young people to reach their full potential through a consistent range of high-quality services that are based on need and delivered collaboratively across a range of providers</p> <p>Raise standards through sustainable, strong leadership at school and borough level</p> <p>Incorporate the voice of pupils, parents and the community, and encourage members of the community to be involved in school leadership</p>	<p>All aspects of provision judged good or better by Ofsted, and more schools and settings classified as 'outstanding'</p> <p>Schools to rate local authority services highly and for demand for local authority services to be high</p> <p>Schools to be making a major contribution to improving life chances of children, young people and families</p> <p>Increased pupil and parent satisfaction reported of Southwark's schools, with fewer parents opting out of Southwark's schools and settings</p>

## Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

*Our priority is...* **Schools and settings are able to meet their students' needs**

*You can expect...* Children and young people overcoming barriers to learning and achieving their full potential. They and their families can expect their school to be inclusive and have the capacity and skills to meet their social, emotional and additional learning needs. Schools, working together and with partners, can expect to access specialist support when appropriate.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Through consistent, high-quality services, build the capacity of universal settings to better identify and take targeted action to meet the social and emotional needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families</p> <p>Reconfigure how we provide community mental health support to children, young people and their families in mainstream settings, including when and how to access specialist provision</p> <p>Enable partners to make better use of the specialist learning skills and resources available in the borough</p> <p>Create and use a clearer framework of tiered support for children with additional learning needs</p>	<p>Greater numbers of young people with barriers to learning achieving higher, including less exclusions and improved attendance</p> <p>More young people feeling safe and fewer incidences of bullying</p> <p>Investment in early intervention to be according to need and evidence of what works, while building the capacity of families to solve their own problems</p> <p>Universal settings to be confident and equipped to meet their students' and families' needs</p> <p>A greater consensus about what works and how we can share expertise and best practice across the system, as well as more quality referrals and better use of specialist provision</p>

## Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs

### *Our priority is...* **Raising attainment at 19**

*You can expect...* More young people staying in education or training after 16, choosing to do this locally and achieving better qualifications. More will be making good choices about their future because they and their parents will be receiving quality careers and education advice, and the curriculum and opportunities on offer will meet their needs and those of local employers.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Deliver a high-quality, broad, balanced curriculum for those aged 14 to 19, ensuring that it is both coordinated and meets the needs of our employers and young learners at levels one, two and three</p> <p>Provide good-quality careers and education advice and guidance that results in young people making good choices</p> <p>Build capacity with local businesses to ensure there are better pathways for young people into employment</p>	<p>More young people choosing to take up appropriate provision locally</p> <p>Attainment at level two and three to rise and the gap with national figures to disappear</p> <p>Less young people dropping out post-16</p> <p>More young people taking up apprenticeships and work placements in the local area</p>

## Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

*Our priority is...* **More young people in education, employment or training**

*You can expect...* More young people choosing and remaining in a quality local education placement suitable to their needs. Parents and the community will have higher aspirations for their children, young people at risk of dropping out will have been identified and guided on to an appropriate path to employment, and those in need will be receiving tailored advice and support.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Work collaboratively to identify earlier and target those groups at risk of not taking up education, employment or training, and support them to access a broad, balanced curriculum</p> <p>Identify and target quality advice at an earlier age to young people at risk of not taking up education, employment or training</p> <p>Work with the community to increase aspirations and engage parents in supporting their child's post-16 choices</p> <p>Provide co-ordinated, tailored advice, guidance and support for those not in education, employment or training, to enable them to take up and remain in one of a range of quality local placements appropriate to their needs</p>	<p>More young people in education, employment or training including those at greater risk and with more complex needs</p> <p>A broader range of quality education, training and employment opportunities</p>

## Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

### *Our priority is...* **Looked after young people succeed as young adults**

*You can expect...* More looked after young people living in a stable placement, taking up education, employment or training, and managing independent lives successfully. All partners will bring together their services to support those under 22 years into adulthood, and specialist expertise will be available to ensure the most vulnerable are safeguarded.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Consolidate what's on offer across council, children's trust and local strategic partnership partners for looked after children aged 16 to 21 to support them to move successfully into adulthood</p> <p>Provide tailored support for those that need it in order to succeed in adulthood and be independent</p> <p>Ensure a multi-agency response that draws on a range of specialist services and expertise for looked after young people with very complex needs</p>	<p>More looked after young people in education training and employment</p> <p>More stability in placements</p> <p>More care leavers managing their lives successfully as young adults</p> <p>Better safeguarding of those at risk of harm to themselves and others through improved specialist support</p>

## Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

*Our priority is...* **Less crime by and against young people**

*You can expect...* Fewer and less serious crimes being committed by young people and a fall in reoffending. There will also be less young people being victims or fearful of crime and antisocial behaviour. And more young offenders will be choosing to enter education, employment or training, living in suitable accommodation and leading a law-abiding lifestyle.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Target early intervention services at young people and their families who are at risk of involvement in crime as either victim or perpetrator</p> <p>Prevent reoffending and reduce the seriousness of crimes through a model of multi-agency, evidenced-based intervention and support</p> <p>Assist young offenders to engage positively in their community through supported opportunities to enter education, employment or training, live in suitable accommodation and develop law-abiding lifestyles</p>	<p>Fewer and less serious crimes being committed by young people</p> <p>Less young people becoming victims of crime and fewer being fearful of crime and antisocial behaviour among young people</p> <p>More young people who have committed crimes taking up education, employment or training opportunities, living in suitable accommodation and desisting from offending lifestyles</p>

## Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing

### *Our priority is...* **Lower rates of teenage conceptions**

*You can expect...* More young people, whatever their level of need, making positive choices about their sexual health and relationships, and more parents feeling able to guide their child's choices. Young people will be accessing quality advice and contraception when and how they need it, and there will be self-development opportunities for our vulnerable young people.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Ensure good-quality sexual health information, advice and guidance is available to all young people and their families</p> <p>Increase access to contraception</p> <p>Provide targeted information and support on a range of services including sexual health, educational and self-development opportunities to at-risk groups, including looked after children, teenage mothers, vulnerable parents and young offenders</p>	<p>More young people are able to make positive choices around sexual health and relationships, and more parents feel able to guide and influence their child's choices</p> <p>A rise in the number of young people accessing contraception</p> <p>Reduced rates of teenage pregnancy, and more teenage parents in training or employment</p>



## Working together – children are safeguarded from harm

### *Our priority is...* **A stronger family based approach to safeguarding**

*You can expect...* Partners to reshape services for vulnerable families so they are more responsive, integrated and effective. You can also expect us to bring together the widest range of knowledge and expertise to support children with a child protection plan, which will lead to less time on plans, fewer re-registrations and improved outcomes for the child and family.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Enable the joint assessment of children and their families that recognises the difficulties being experienced in the household, and draws on evidence from all services involved with the family</p> <p>Reshape the way we support children with a child protection plan that builds on the wide range of knowledge and expertise of all the professionals involved with the family</p> <p>Improve the effectiveness of joint work to ensure there is appropriate multi-agency targeted, specialist support when needed, and that there is a more efficient use of resources by those working with a child and their family</p>	<p>Improved joint assessments and greater integrated working across the partnership</p> <p>More effective child protection plans which will result in less time being spent on them</p> <p>Fewer hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people</p>

## Working together – children are safeguarded from harm

### *Our priority is...* **Services that meet the needs of our children and community**

*You can expect...* More children to be safe because services are meeting their and the community needs, and the workforce is able to recognise and act on potential signs of abuse and neglect. Partners, with the community, will also work better together to ensure children are protected from harm and to improve the quality of referrals to social care.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Develop provision that responds to local community and safeguarding needs to keep children safe</p> <p>Improve the quality and consistency of contact and referrals to social care or to other agencies as appropriate</p> <p>Secure a well-trained workforce able to understand child development, and recognise and act on potential signs of abuse and neglect</p> <p>Deliver the system-wide improvements to achieve the step change required by <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance</p> <p>Develop the positive relationship with the borough's communities to build their capacity to keep children safe</p>	<p>More children are safe and/or report they feel safe</p> <p>More good-quality and timely referrals to the most appropriate agency</p> <p>Improvements to frontline practice in line with serious case review recommendations, SSCB annual report and <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance</p> <p>All agencies will be reviewing safeguarding performance and be reporting to the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>More voluntary, community and faith group involvement in safeguarding children</p>

## Working together – children are safeguarded from harm

*Our priority is...* **Fewer children and families experiencing domestic abuse**

*You can expect...* Fewer instances of domestic violence and repeat victimisation because we are working better together to ensure prevention, intervention and enforcement services are more coordinated and effective. Children in families experiencing domestic abuse will be safer and have better life chances, and more young people will choose to engage in positive relationships.

<b>We will commission services that...</b>	<b>As a result, we expect...</b>
<p>Develop a partnership-wide approach to prevention, intervention and enforcement activities to ensure a more integrated continuum of support for families experiencing domestic abuse</p> <p>Improve the coordination of support for children in families experiencing domestic abuse, both through greater integrated working by partners across the system and better training opportunities</p> <p>Ensure that information, guidance and support services for young people encourage positive relationships</p>	<p>Lower rates of domestic violence and repeat victimisation</p> <p>A fall in the negative impact of domestic abuse on children's safety and life chances</p> <p>Less sexual offences by and against young people, and more young people aware of and choosing to engage in positive relationships</p>

## **Review of needs, stakeholder views and performance**

This plan has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of children's trust partners at all levels, and has been overseen by the children's trust board at each stage.

The priorities and commitments identified in this plan are the result of detailed analysis of a comprehensive joint strategic needs assessment, widespread stakeholder consultation and extensive performance review, as follows:

### **Needs assessment**

We undertook a comprehensive joint strategic needs assessment across the five Every Child Matters outcomes and cross-cutting themes including schools, parenting, workforce and safeguarding to identify as a system what we are doing well, what we can build on and where we need to do it differently.

A summary of this analysis is included in this plan and is available as a separate document [to be confirmed]. It is available [details to follow].

### **Views of children, young people and families in Southwark**

The needs assessment set a framework for stakeholder consultation through borough-wide storytelling events with children, young people, parents, carers and frontline staff. Some 1,000 stories have been collected and used to shape and inform priorities. In addition, a parent and child survey collected a further 800 views on issues across the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

A selection of the stories collected has been published [due April 2010] and is available [details to follow].

### **Performance review**

The third strand to the plan's development was a senior management review of our performance to date, to identify what we are doing well and what we can build on and where we need to do it differently – against each of the Every Child Matters outcomes.

We are publishing this analysis alongside the needs assessment, and it includes

summaries for each outcome, showing how we are building on our strengths and addressing areas for improvement.

## **Use of resources**

### **Investing in outcomes for children, young people and families**

We are committed to providing the resources needed to deliver effective services for children, young people and families, and to ensuring these resources are used efficiently. Over the past three years [details to follow to include description of funding arrangements].

### **Current expenditure plans**

The finance and resource requirements arising from the Children and Young People's Plan can be divided between direct expenditure by the three core providers (education, social care and health) and expenditure by other council departments, the police and the voluntary sector, which also impact upon the outcomes sought by the plan.

[Table to come]

### **Resources**

The resources required to fund the above expenditure, come from a variety of sources as follows:

[Table to come]

### **Directing resources to priority outcomes**

Because this plan has been developed in the harshest economic climate seen for decades, this strategy and its commissioning plan focus on identifying priorities, detailing what is achievable on current resource assumptions, and mapping the core resources available.

We will also use the priorities to identify system-wide priority and improve the use of resources by working to reduce duplication and better utilise a range of partnership-wide resources to deliver outcomes.

## **What happens next?**

### **Financial planning and governance**

The quality of service provision is one of the most important factors in delivering overall improvement in outcomes. The challenging public sector financial context over the coming years makes it vital that services are evidence-based, cost-effective and efficient. This plan is the driver to remove duplication where it exists across the children's system and target resources against the agreed set of priorities.

We anticipate that, by April 2011, the future statutory guidance will require the CYPP to include a statement of how the local authority's use of resources will contribute to the improvement of outcomes. We, therefore, intend to publish, in April 2011, financial information which details that the commitments in this plan are realistic, affordable and not merely a set of aspirations.

We also anticipate that, by April 2011, this plan will also have to show how the budgets of local partners involved in preparing it, including the voluntary sector, will be used to contribute to the delivery of the plan.

We, therefore, will set out our progress on pooling and aligning budgets and how children's trust partners intend to integrate the use of assets, resources and new technologies in support of delivery. It is particularly important where joint actions are proposed without a pooled budget that partners set out clearly the level of resources committed to and how budgets will be aligned or funding apportioned.

Over the coming months, we will oversee the development of partnership and governance arrangements to ensure we have robust infrastructure for delivering the commitments in this plan.

### **Supporting strategies**

We have developed a range of strategies which set out what we agree we need to do to ensure we meet the commitments set out in this plan – they are the plan's enablers or building blocks.

Collectively they provide the vehicles for implementing the plan's priorities, be that through information sharing protocols, third sector involvement or ways to work in a more integrated way.

They will explain in more detail the scope and priorities for universal, preventative and specialist services, as well as addressing the needs of cross-cutting issues such as the involvement of the third sector, our action to address child poverty and the development needs of our workforce.

We will publish these strategies in summer 2010. For copies, go to [details to be confirmed]

### **And so the work begins...**

Now we embark on achieving our priorities and making sure the major changes we and our communities need take place over the next three years.

We know that by working together, being of one mind, we will be more effective because we will jointly plan and apply the use of our resources and improve the services on offer.

And now that we have set our priorities, it is our workforce who will make them happen. We are confident we will meet the expectations and challenges you have told us matter because of our staff's skills and commitment to turning our aspirations into changes you see in your daily lives.

Above all, we must ensure that everything we do is focused on ensuring all children, young people and families have the best chances in life.

Although this plan is our strategic intentions for the whole borough, it should and will translate into changes to the services you use or work with – the schools, youth clubs, and antenatal services in your neighbourhood.

It aims to help families be more independent and able to solve their own problems. And for more children and young people to be healthier, happier, safer and achieving their full potential.



<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 February 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Corporate Parenting Committee – Workplan 2010	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee consider reviewing the work plan for 2010.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

2. The constitution for the municipal year 2009-2010 records the corporate parenting committee's role and functions are as follows:
  1. To secure real and sustained improvements in the life chances of looked after children, and to work within an annual programme to that end.
  2. To develop, monitor and review a corporate parenting strategy and work plan
  3. To seek to ensure that the life chances of looked after children are maximised in terms of health educational attainment, and access to training and employment, to aid the transition to a secure and productive adulthood.
  4. To develop and co-ordinate a life chances strategy and work plan to improve the life chances of Southwark looked after children.
  5. To recommend ways in which more integrated services can be developed across all council departments, schools and the voluntary sector to lead towards better outcomes for looked after children.
  6. To ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable looked after children and young people to play an integral role in service planning and design, and that their views are regularly sought and acted upon.
  7. To ensure performance monitoring systems are in place, and regularly review performance data to ensure sustained performance improvements in outcomes for looked after children.
  8. To receive an annual report on the adoption and fostering services to monitor their effectiveness in providing safe and secure care for looked after children.
  9. To report to the council's executive on a twice yearly basis.
  10. To make recommendations to the relevant executive decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the executive.
  11. To report to the scrutiny sub-committee with responsibility for children's services after each meeting.
  12. To appoint non-voting co-opted members.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The committee receives an annual report on adoption and fostering services and independent review officers service, quarterly reports on performance indicators for children looked after, regular reports from the speakerbox service for children looked after and ad hoc statistical analyses and the outcome of statutory service inspections.

### Policy implications

4. The policy agenda has been measured against the government's five "Every Child Matters" outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Well-Being. The committee's programme of work has been developed to meet these outcomes.

### Future agenda items

5. The following workplan listing agenda items for this municipal year have been drafted. The committee is asked to review the workplan.

#### 18 February 2010

- Apprenticeship report from Head of Organisational Development
- Children Missing from Care
- Report on best practice from other authorities and how corporate parenting committee can provide support children and young people.
- Feedback/update from Speakerbox event including the issue of the name change of committee
- Children and Young People's Plan
- The Pledge
- "Tell it as it was"

#### 25 March 2010

- Children looked after (CiC) performance indicators 2009-10 Quarter 4
- Children Looked After Performance report – latest figures
- Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan to support children and care leavers accessing employment, education and training - invites to key figures in apprenticeship schemes including 14 -19, Head of Southwark Works and Connexions to hear views.

#### To be allocated:

- Annual reports – ref apprenticeships, fusion, university
  - Annual Report – Health of Children in Care
  - Unaccompanied minors – Annual report
6. The annual meeting of council assembly in May 2010 will consider future dates. If the schedule of dates in 2009-10 is followed, then committee is likely to meet in:
    - July 2010
    - November 2010
    - February 2011

- April 2011

### Community impact statement

7. The work of the corporate parenting committee contributes to community cohesion and stability.

### Resource implications

8. There are no specific implications arising from this report.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee	Constitutional Team	Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director: Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Bola Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	9 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer</b>	9 February 2010	

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009-10</b>			
<b>NOTE:</b>		Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Bola Roberts 020 7525 7232	
To	Copies	To	Copies
<b>Membership</b>	1 each	Constitutional Officer	10
Councillor Lisa Rajan		1 copy to Bola Roberts, Tooley Street	4
Councillor Ade Lasaki			
Councillor Eliza Mann		<b>Total:</b>	41
Councillor Lewis Robinson			
Councillor Barrie Hargrove			
Councillor Veronica Ward			
Councillor Althea Smith			
<b>Reserves</b>			
Councillor James Barber	1 each		
Councillor John Friary			
Councillor Sandra Rhule			
Councillor Michelle Holford			
Councillor Caroline Pidgeon			
<b>Co-opted members</b>			
Barbara Hills	1 each		
Chris Sanford			
<b>Libraries</b>			
Albion			
Dulwich			
Newington			
Local Studies Library			
<b>Children's Services</b>			
Romi Bowen			
Rory Patterson			
Chris Saunders			
Debbie Walsh			
Eleanor Parkin			
<b>Legal</b>			
Sarah Feasey			
Jill Easty			
<b>Organisational Development</b>			
John Howard			

**Dated: 9 February 2010**