#### Open Agenda



# **Corporate Parenting Committee**

Wednesday 17 July 2013
2.00 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2A, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

#### Membership

# Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair) Councillor Catherine Bowman Councillor Rowenna Davis Councillor Barrie Hargrove Councillor Eliza Mann Councillor Wilma Nelson Councillor Althea Smith Barbara Hills Carolyn Martin

#### Reserves

Councillor Poddy Clark Councillor Patrick Diamond Councillor Helen Hayes Councillor Lisa Rajan

#### INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

#### **Babysitting/Carers allowances**

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

#### Access

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#### Contact

Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395

Or email: <a href="mailto:paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk">paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk</a> Webpage: <a href="mailto:http://www.southwark.gov.uk">http://www.southwark.gov.uk</a>

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive Date: 9 July 2013





### **Corporate Parenting Committee**

Wednesday 17 July 2013
2.00 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room GO2A, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

#### **Order of Business**

Item No. Title Page No.

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

Mobile phones should be turned off or put on silent during the course of the meeting.

#### **PART A - OPEN BUSINESS**

#### 1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.

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

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.

#### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensation in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

5. MINUTES 1 - 3

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 29 April 2013.

Item N	No. Title	Page No.
6.	FEEDBACK FROM SPEAKER BOX AND SPEAKER BOX ACTION PLAN	4 - 13
7.	CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS	14 - 20
8.	PROGRESS REPORT IN RESPECT OF FOSTERING RECRUITMENT	21 - 27
9.	CORPORATE PARENTING AND THE VOICE OF THE CHILD IN CARE	28 - 32
10.	CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE - WORK PLAN 2013/14	33 - 36

## 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 July 2013



#### **Corporate Parenting Committee**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Corporate Parenting Committee held on Monday 29 April 2013 at 2.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

**PRESENT:** Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair)

Councillor Eliza Mann

Councillor Catherine Bowman Councillor Claire Hickson Councillor Wilma Nelson

Barbara Hills Carolyn Martin

OTHERS Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care PRESENT: Alasdair Smith, Acting Head of Servicer CLA

Caroline Muller, Service Manager - QAU /LADO

Wendy Foreman, Head of campaigns

**OFFICER** Sean Usher, Constitutional Team **SUPPORT:** Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Althea Smith and apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Catherine Bowman.

#### 2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The members listed above were confirmed as the voting members.

The committee confirmed the appointment of Carolyn Martin (Family Action) as a non-voting co-opted member to represent the voluntary and community sector.

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

There were none.

#### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

#### 5. MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

#### 6. ANNUAL REPORT OF ADOLESCENT AND AFTERCARE SERVICE

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That key partnerships/protocols with other council services to target looked after children (CLA) and care leavers to deliver tangible outcomes regarding apprenticeships, training and further education be promoted.
- 2. That all council departments considering targeted interventions/inclusions for children looked after (CLA) and care leavers be promoted.
- 3. That the widened responsibilities placed upon local authorities, by the Care Planning Regulations 2011, in particular additional responsibilities towards young people resuming education be noted.
- 4. That the legislative changes contained with within the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders 2012 Act be noted.
- 5. That the commencement of the tendering process for the provision of high quality, cost effective semi-independent accommodation be noted.

#### 7. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Independent Reviewing Officer annual report be noted.
- 2. That an action plan be drawn up for implementation of the recommendations.

# 8. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND OFFENDING - IMPACT OF THE LEGAL AID, SENTENCING AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS ACT 2012 (LASPO)

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the implications of Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) on resources within the youth offending service (YOS) and the adolescent & aftercare service be noted.
- 2. That the proposed changes to the care planning guidance to looked after children on remand be noted.

3. That the committee receive a report back in one year to review the impact of LASPO on the council in terms of workload and cost.

#### 9. ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

#### **RESOLVED**:

That adoption service annual report be received and the recommendations of the adoption improvement plan which seek to deliver a step change in the number of approved adopters and children adopted from care be noted.

#### 10. ANNUAL REPORT ON FOSTERING

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the annual fostering report be noted.
- 2. That the proposals to improve recruitment of Southwark approved foster carers be noted.

#### 11. WORK PLAN 2012/13

#### **RESOLVED**:

- 1. That the work plan for 2012/13 be noted.
- 2. That the committee receive a progress report to the July 2013 meeting in respect of fostering recruitment initiatives.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

**CHAIR:** 

DATED:

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	Classification: Open	<b>Date:</b> 17 July 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Feedback from Speaker Box and Speaker Box Action Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Looked After Children in Southwark	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the committee welcomes and notes the following documents:
  - The Speaker Box mission statement
  - Speaker Box work areas and achievements 2012-13
- 2. The 2013 -14 Children's Service participation action plan (including those actions detailed below) to be completed and presented to the Committee for approval.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. Southwark has a good history of involving young people in decisions about their care. Speaker Box was set up in 2005 as a voice for young people looked after in Southwark and was well integrated into decision-making about Children looked after. In 2007, after a number of consultation events with young people, the Speaker Box Council was formally set up as Southwark's children in care council.

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

- 4. Young people in Speaker Box have been meeting regularly with the senior managers and the corporate parenting group. The last meeting held was October 2012.
- 5. Speaker Box were actively involved in the OFSTED inspection of Children's Services in May June 2012. The inspectors were very impressed by the presentation that was given to them by the young people and as a result Speaker Box was singled out by Ofsted as an example of national Best Practice in April 2013. This then led to a very positive article about Speaker Box in 'Children and Young People Now' magazine on 30 April 2013.
- 6. The documents included for reference outline the way in which LB Southwark Children's Services in collaboration with the Speaker Box council continue to ensure that children in care and care leavers have a voice in children's services.
  - Speaker Box's mission statement is outlined in the first document attached.

- The achievements of Speaker Box are outlined in the second document.
- 7. Our last children's rights and participation officer left at the end of 2012. A new children's rights worker has recently started with the council on 4 June 2013.
- 8. This gives us an opportunity to refresh our work with young people. The new worker is aiming to increase the accessibility and relevance of the Speaker Box council to all young people in care and care leavers. This will lead to more meaningful participation from children with disabilities and those with English as a second language.
- 9. Key new actions planned for 2013-14:
  - Re-design publicity materials including complaints, advocacy fliers and Speaker Box magazines to make them more accessible to all young people
  - A 6-week peer leadership and self-development film project to be run for young people in care and care leavers. The resulting film will be used in training for social workers managers and councillors around best practice in how to engage with young people.
  - Design and run a half day training programme for young people wishing to actively participate in Speaker Box
  - Set up a two-track pathway for young people to engage with the Speaker Box council to improve inclusion for those young people who are not confident in a larger group setting.
  - To work collaboratively with the other youth groups in the borough on issues that affect all young people in Southwark e.g. education and crime

#### **Community impact statement**

- 10. This item will have an impact on the work that the council does with looked after children and their carers.
- 11. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.

#### **Equalities impact**

12. These consultations are intended to improve the outcome for looked after children and care leavers.

#### **Resource implications**

13. None.

#### Consultation

14. There is ongoing consultation between the Children looked after service, the Quality assurance service and the Speaker Box council.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Speaker Box Mission Statement	,	Jackie Cook 020 7525 0387
Speaker Box Achievements 2012-13		

#### **APPENDICES**

No.	Title
Appendix 1	The Speaker Box mission statement
Appendix 2	Speaker Box achievements 2012-13

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care			
Report Author	Jackie Cook, Head	Jackie Cook, Head of Social Work Improvement and Quality		
	Assurance			
Version	Final			
Dated	8 July 2013			
Key Decision?	No			
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET				
MEMBER				
Officer Title Comments sought Comments included				
Director of Legal Se	rvices	No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance		No	No	
and Corporate Services				
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member No No			
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team 8 July 2013				



# **SPEAKER BOX COUNCIL**

Every Thought COUNTS - Nikki age 14yrs Just do it!

Speaker Box Council is a Voice for Change-Emma age 19yrs

We are not leaders of tomorrow but leaders of today-Paris aged 15yrs

To help kids in fostering-Charlie aged 13yrs

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

I think Speaker Box Council is about helping people change and feel better about themselves and their community around them.

Speaker Box Council is for the young people-by the young people promoting change for the better - Chante age 15yrs

#### Who R WE?

We are a group of young people from different backgrounds. We represent both Care Leavers and those still in care who share experiences of the care system.

#### **Our Vision**

The Vision of the Speaker Box Council is to create a space where young people can get inspiration, motivation, and find themselves in the front line for decisions. We hope to develop an opportunity for Speaker Box Council members to be able to shadow councillors.

#### **Our Belief**

The UK government agreed the United Nations Convention on children rights in 1991 to protect all children. Article 12 states that any child or young person has a right to express their views and have them given due weight in decisions affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.

We believe that children, young people and professionals working with SBC, should have some understanding of the importance of human rights and participation.

#### SPEAKER BOX COUNCIL AIMS

The Speaker Box Council aims to help improve the lives of both young people in care and care leavers in Southwark. This will be achieved by providing guidance, advice and training to young people on the Speaker Box Council.

The Views and opinions of young people's are important and our aim is to bring our opinions and concerns to policy makers.

The Speaker Box Council has a variety of roles aimed at empowering young people to make positive change in their life and the lives of others.

Our role is to promote and monitor the Southwark Pledge and Speaker Box Golden Rules.

The Speaker Box council will provide a space where young people can give their views, ideas and wishes to their Corporate Parents.

We will aim to develop an exchange of information/ communication between young people in care and managers/practitioners. Through frank and honest communication and consultation SBC will help shape young people ideas/views/wishes to hopefully bring positive change to the care system.

The Speaker Box Council supports the Children Services Participation Strategy and the Young Southwark Plan.

#### HOW THE SPEAKER BOX COUNCIL WORKS

Speaker Box Council was set up following a number of consultation events in 2009 and 2010. Young people were elected through a formal process of elections. A two day training and a team building event held at Alton Towers was arranged to help the members within their new role as young advisors and council members.

SBC act as the link between young people in care & care leavers, the Heads of Service and the Corporate Parents. The SBC promote and share ideas/concerns of young people.

The Speaker Box Council meets the Head of Service three times a year to present the findings of consultations and issues affecting young people in care and care leavers.

SBC members meet the Corporate Parents (venue & food chosen by the SBC!) twice a year. SBC prepare an agenda (y/p style) to the Corporate Parent Committee.

The SBC meets monthly at Peckham library.

#### RESOURCES/ESSENTIALS!

Southwark Children's Services are to allocate a realistic budget that includes costs for venue hire, activity materials, travel costs refreshments, accreditation costs, awards and incentives, support costs, promotion and ICT.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

Children/young people and care leavers who have attended the Speaker Box meeting; will be invited to observe the sitting of the Speaker Box council. This will enable those attending to understand and familiarise themselves with the formal council sitting. It will also offer the young people an insight into the working of a formalised council offering an opportunity to volunteer and become either Young Advisors or elected council members.



#### HOW PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

Speaker Box was established following an independent consultation Project carried out by Blue Print (Voice) in 2004. The consultation event identified a request from young people to have their voice heard. Following this consultation, SB was created through the involvement of core group of young people.

Speaker Box is a voice for children/ young people and care leavers. Speaker Box can be seen to have been running as an informal council for Children in Care since 2005 through meetings with Corporate Parents, setting agendas and negotiating venues and writing guidelines to council members on how to work with young people in a formal and non formal context.

By creating a place of fun and learning-**with results**! The SBC aim to develop a committed and dedicated group of children, young people and care leavers to champion Southwark's care population.

#### SPEAKER BOX COUNCIL PROJECTS

There are currently four main areas of work:

- 1) The Tell It How Project (Peer Exit Interviews project)
- 2) The Speaker Box Magazine. (Younger and older Speaker Box quarterly magazine)
- **3) The Speaker Box Seal of Approval-** (Assessment Tool Kit being developed with the placements service)
- 4) 'Understanding us' training

#### How can you join?

Children and Young people who are interested in joining Speaker Box Council can complete an application form found in the Speaker Box Magazine and return it in the envelope provided

#### Please direct questions and comments to:

#### Jaimee Hendry / Ivy Obasohan

Speaker Box Council

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Quality Assurance Unit

160 Tooley St

SEI

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

Tel: 0207 525 3339

Mob:07947649506/07983047795



#### SPEAKERBOX WORK AREAS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2012-13

#### **APPENDIX 2**

Key actions	Intended Impact and Success Measures	Delivery date	* Notes/Other info
Speakerbox, Southwark Young Children's Child in Care Council	Delivery of Speakerbox CiCC meetings	Held monthly through the year in Peckham library.	
Produce Speakerbox magazine, request direct feedback about service development proposals, new ideas and forthcoming events	Delivery of 13-21 and 8-12 year old magazines	Magazines to be produced and distributed 4x yearly	
Termly listening groups for Speakerbox to meet CLA Head of Service and head of QA to discuss service developments and evaluation activity.	CiC influencing CLA service planning	3x Meetings held	Held: 15/2/12, 27/6/12, 3/9/12, 31/10/12
Involvement of Speakerbox representatives in participation steering group (two members)	Two members identified and regularly attending	Full year	
Speakerbox involved in planning for consultation event (fun day) for 8 – 12 age group (0-12 Service). Speakerbox to undertake consultation interviews with young people	Delivery of 'big picnic' in September 2012	Sept 2012	Lead Officers: AS
Bi-annual meetings of Speakerbox Children in Care Council with Southwark's Corporate Parenting Committee  NB: Meetings are supported by CLA Head of Service and head of Quality Assurance Service	Bi-annual meetings are organised with the Corporate Parenting Committee with the CIC. These sessions will be facilitated (Feb and October of each year) where CLA and care leavers will be able to discuss with Councillors the agenda for the next six months and their views / ideas for service improvement.	Feb 2012 October 2012	Lead Partners/Officers: QAU/HOS
Annual review of new social worker induction programme for front line staff –	Speakerbox project officer and apprentice contributed to this and participated in the 3x yearly induction sessions for new staff	Sept 2012	

Key actions	Intended Impact and Success Measures	Delivery date	* Notes/Other info
Participation in targeted consultations during 2012-13	SB participation in big picnic	Sept 2012	
<ul> <li>Big picnic</li> <li>Review of 13+ induction</li> <li>Review of advocacy service tendering process</li> </ul>	Speakerbox members involved in the reviews of 13+ induction process and advocacy service r- tendering	Sept 2012	
Delivery of annual "Tell it as it was" initiative - Speakerbox members interview care leavers to record service feedback.	Report from 2011-12 completed and fed back to the Corporate parenting group	October 2012	For feedback to Corporate parenting group, CS managers and service meetings
	Interviews of care leavers to contribute to this years report	Currently ongoing – about 9 completed top date	with social workers
Consultation with care leavers and managers about how to prevent evictions of care leavers – the 'use it or lose it' project	Review of effectiveness of new procedure for housing – involving Service manager AAC and drop in	January 2013	
Involvement of Speakerbox young people in design and delivery of annual event to celebrate achievements of looked-after children.	The annual celebration event is organised in October of each year and celebrates GCSE achievement and young people's	October 2012 6 awards presented.	
Speakerbox presents 'extra mile awards' to social workers, PA's and foster carers	awards	o awards presented.	

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Key actions	Intended Impact and Success Measures	Delivery date	* Notes/Other info
QAU Service to employ Speakerbox apprenticeship post in partnership with complaints and commissioning	Apprentice in post	April 2012	Lead Partners/Officers: QAU Managed by Children's rights officer
Development of enhanced communication arrangements for Speakerbox to communicate with CLA (13-21)  a) facebook account b) four square (Blackberry messenger)	Both Facebook and BBM initiatives now developed.	Achieved – but limited success with FB account. BBM more successful – about 30 young people signed up.	Lead Partners/Officers: CRO/QAU
Speakerbox representatives involved with CLA health group	Attendance at steering groups		
'Understanding us training' developed as a result of the feedback form the TiHiW.	Piloted with the corporate parenting group in August 2012 and IRO group in November 2012.	4 workshops were held December 2012 – June 2013	
'All about me' project. Young people send back (drawn) pictures of themselves and a pen picture to give to their social worker	To enable young people to give a positive picture of themselves to social workers and IRO's	About 20 pictures received and sent to social workers	

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	<b>Date:</b> 17 July 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Charter for Care Leavers	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Care Leavers	
From:		Head of Children Looked After	

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. The committee is asked to note the information in this report and support the adoption of the Charter for Care Leavers.
- 2. The committee is asked to consider how they wish the charter to used in future work of the committee.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3. The Department for Education has produced a national Charter for Care Leavers. The charter was developed by young people and sets out promises and principles to guide local authorities in delivering services to young people who have left local authority care. Southwark Council has agreed to sign up to the charter and embed its principles for all care leavers in the way it delivers services.
- 4. The Charter for Care Leavers sets out 7 promises to care leavers from the Local Authority to promote the young person's wellbeing.
  - 1. To respect and honour your identity- We will help you develop your own personal beliefs and values and accept your culture and heritage. We will celebrate your identity as an individual, as a member of identity groups and as a valued member of your community.
  - **2. To believe in you-** We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future even if you have lost sight of this yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can.
  - **3. To listen to you-** We will take time to listen to you, respect, and strive to understand your point of view.
  - **4. To inform you** We will give you information that you need at every point in your journey, from are to adulthood, presented in a way that you want including information on legal entitlements and the service you can expect to receive from us at different stages in the journey.
  - **5. To support you-** We will provide any support set out in current Regulations and Guidance and will not unreasonably withhold advice when you are no longer legally entitled to this service. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help we will provide emotional support.
  - 6. To find you a home- We will work alongside you to prepare you for your

move into independent living only when you are ready. We will help you think about the choices available and to find accommodation that is right for you.

**7. To be a lifelong champion-** We will point you in a positive direction and journey alongside you at your pace. We will trust and respect you. We will remain your supporters in whatever way we can, even when our formal relationship with you has ended.

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

- 5. A review of the local position against the charter shows good compliance of the promises and principals (see Appendix 1).
- 6. The committee should consider whether it wishes to focus on any aspects of the charter for further development
- 7. The committee may want to consider how it works with young people, such as through Speakerbox, in taking this forward

#### **Policy implications**

- 8. The Charter for Care Leavers is consistent with the objectives of the Southwark's Children and Young People's Plan.
- 9. The inspection by Ofsted found provision within the Economic Wellbeing service areas as "adequate".

#### **Community impact statement**

10. The Charter for Care Leavers makes promises to those leaving care about the services they will receive. It does not impact on the community as a whole.

#### **Resource implications**

11. The Charter for Care Leavers does not have any resource implications. All services provided in order to embed the principles of the charter are part of existing work and resource streams.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Charter for Care Leavers	http://media.education.go	Irene Permaul
	v.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/cl	
	%20charter%20final%20	020 7525 3840
	25%20oct%202012.pdf	

#### **APPENDICES**

No.	Title
Appendix 1	RAG Compliance with the Charter for Care Leavers

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Head of Children Looked After			
Report Author	Irene Permaul, Poli	Irene Permaul, Policy Officer		
Version	Final			
Dated	8 July 2013			
Key Decision?	No			
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET				
	MEMBER			
Officer Title Comments Sought Comments Included			Comments Included	
Director of Legal Services		No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance		No	No	
and Corporate Services				
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member No No			
Date final report s	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team 8 July 2013			

#### RAG COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHARTER FOR CARE LEAVERS APPENDIX 1

Charter Promise	Evidence	Provisio nal RAG Status
Respect and honour your identity We will help you develop your own personal beliefs and	Southwark Speaker Box Council is open to all children and young people in care and care leavers up to the age of 24. Speaker Box is important in allowing children looked after and care leavers an opportunity to developing and express their own views, values and feelings. Speaker Box also provides young people with the opportunity to peer network with others of different or similar identity groups.	GREEN
values and accept your culture and heritage. We will celebrate your identity as an individual, as a member of identity groups and as a valued member of your community.	Speaker Box has developed the 'Understanding Us' training and development programme for council staff and created the 10 Golden Rules for social workers to ensure that respect and understanding of individual's identity is embedded in Southwark's way of working.	
Believe in you We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future	The Adolescent and Aftercare Service have an active partnership with Southwark Connexions and Southwark Works to provide allocated staff who are able to target the most vulnerable care leavers who may struggle to access the employment, education and training markets.	GREEN
even if you have lost sight of this yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can.	In partnership with the virtual school social workers identify the young people who do not have firm plans and directly intervene to help young people (16+) clarify their pathways and access special projects to help them engage and prepare.	
Listen to you We will take time to listen to you, respect,	The 'Tell It Like It Was' annual survey of care leavers gives young people the opportunity to express their opinions on the care and support they have received, both in care and in order to transition out of care.  All social workers and personal advisors have completed or are scheduled to complete the Speaker Box	GREEN

Charter Promise	Evidence	Provisio nal RAG Status	
understand your point of view.	training, aimed at developing knowledge and understandings of issues facing the young people in / that are leaving care.		
	As part of the '10 golden rules' young people in care are promised that they will be listened to and involved in decisions about their care. This includes decisions about their futures are transitions out of care.		
	Speaker Box has had some significant achievements including a direct influence on local policy decisions. Speaker Box has been recognised as a national example of best practice by Ofsted.		
Inform you We will give you information that you need at every point in	Speaker Box aims to inform young people of their rights and to enable them to ask informed questions and to enable children and young people to make more informed decisions about their care and treatment. Speaker Box produces a regular newsletter for all children and young people in care and care leavers.	GREEN	
your journey, from are to adulthood, presented in a way that you want	As part of the '10 golden rules' young people in care are informed of and involved in decisions being made about their care, and that they have the opportunity to speak with their social worker alone during every visit.		18
including information on legal entitlements and the service you can expect to receive from us at different stages in the journey.	Those preparing to leave care are invited to open days to help to inform them of their options when transitioning out of care, and to give them the time to prepare and to make fully informed choices.		
Support you We will provide any support set out in current Regulations and	Southwark Council provides care leavers with support set out in current Regulations and Guidance. Southwark also seeks to continue supporting care leavers once for example through care leaver involvement in Speaker Box.	GREEN	
Guidance and will not unreasonably withhold advice when you are no longer legally entitled to this service. As well as information, advice, practical and financial	The Adolescent and After Care Service have a 'Succeeding into Adulthood' policy to support care leavers transition to adulthood. This includes maintaining meaningful contact and support with care leavers to 21 (25 if in education), multi agency working, including to target those seen as vulnerable to crime or gangs, promoting semi-independent skills post 16, and linking with outside businesses and organisations to offer a range of apprenticeship and work experience opportunities.		
help we will provide	To continue to support and advise care leavers even when they no longer have a legal entitlement to		

Charter Promise	Evidence	Provisio nal RAG Status
emotional support.	services the Adolescent and After Care Service is ensures signposting care leavers to appropriate services to ensure that their needs are met.	
Find you a home We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living only when you are ready. We will help you think about the choices	Southwark Specialist Services has a long standing protocol with Southwark housing that enables care leavers to access level 2 priority for Southwark housing at 18. Year end performance for 2011/12 was 90.4% of care leavers in suitable accommodation.  For all young people who are deemed to be vulnerable at 18 and require additional support, Southwark housing allow the children looked after service to have a designated number "supporting people" placements which provide up to 2 years supportive housing until the young person is ready and able to cope with their own tenancy.	GREEN
available and to find accommodation that is right for you.	Ofsted noted that within Southwark: "the existence of strong partnerships with housing are well established ensuring priority for care leavers through Supporting People arrangements and providing secure tenancies for care leavers. A large majority of responses to the inspection survey show that care leavers live in good or very good accommodation".	
Life long champion We will point you in a positive direction and journey alongside you at your pace. We will trust and respect you. We will remain your	The Care Planning Regulations placed responsibilities upon local authorities to ensure young people have opportunity to remain in stable long term placements. Southwark Staying Put Policy ensures young people with a stable foster placement can continue to live in their former foster home as a transition to independence. This is more in line with what is experienced nationally by young people outside of the care arena. During 2011/2012 Southwark supported over 24 young care leavers to stay put with former foster carers.	GREEN
supporters in whatever way we can, even when our formal relationship with you has ended.	Section 23CA of the 1989 Act means care leavers up to the age of 25 can return to Southwark and request an assessment of their needs for support should they wish to resume their education. Southwark routinely offers further education and higher education packages of support to young people, including financial support, assistance with accommodation costs and course materials, and the allocation of a PA. In 2011/2012 the service offered 45 packages to young people for further and higher education support.	
	The Adolescent and Aftercare Service is embarking upon a programme of transformation, which includes all young people's placement plans post-18 being reviewed at a panel, and all young people being allocated a	

Charter Promise	Evidence	Provisio nal RAG Status
	personal advisor at 17 and a half to assist them with the transition from care to aftercare.	
	The service will re-launch a life skills programme in 2013. The intention is to make this mandatory to all young people under 16, in an attempt to further develop their skills in living independently.	
	To continue to support care leavers even after the formal relationship has ended the Adolescent and After Care Service can sign post care leavers to appropriate services for which they are eligible, including other council services and services provided by the voluntary sector. In addition the service will ensure all care leavers are aware of and engage with appropriate community provision in their area.	

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	<b>Date:</b> 17 July 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Progress Report in Respect of Fostering Recruitment	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Looked After Children Southwark	by the London Borough of
From:		Strategic Director of Cl	nildren's and Adults' Services

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Members to note the information provided in this report.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2. Members will be aware that there has been a national increase in the numbers of Looked After Children over the last five years. This has placed pressure on fostering resources as the increase in fostering households has tried to keep pace with the demand for placements and many local authorities have been forced to place children with foster carers provided by Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs).
- 3. Commissioning external placements has financial implications for the council as they are an expensive resource often costing double that of in-house placements. There are also implications for children in terms of placement choice as most IFAs are often outside of the borough. Looked After Children may have to leave their community, which could potentially mean a change of school and loss of contact with friends in addition to family. This can be difficult for children to cope with and in some cases lead to placement instability, which has long been associated with poorer outcomes for children.

#### **Core Business**

- 4. The fostering team's core business as part of Children's Services is to:
  - provide quality foster care placements for Southwark's Looked After Children.
  - recruit, assess, train and support a suitable and diverse range of foster carers to provide quality care and placement choice for Looked After Children.
- 5. There were 565 Looked After Children in Southwark at 31/3/13. The fostering team were able to place 267 (62%) of these children in Southwark fostering households, while 133 (31%) were placed with IFA foster carers. Family and Friends placement accounted for 32 (7%) of placements.
- 6. Southwark foster carers are members of the Southwark Foster Carers Association who meet regularly consider issues such as training,

foster carer payments, and overall quality of provision. The Association meets regularly with senior managers in the department and the Executive Member for Children's Services, to ensure that the foster carer voice can be heard and that close working relationships are maintained.

7. Southwark had a cohort of 145 fostering households at 31 March 2013, who are reviewed on an annual basis. Southwark also has an ageing population of foster carers, some of whom will be retiring over the next few years. The recruitment process is therefore the most critical part of the fostering service if it is to meet the diverse needs of Looked After Children now and in the future.

#### **Foster Carer Recruitment**

- 8. Southwark's recruitment team consists of a recruitment manager supported by an administrator and a marketing officer who is responsible for the recruitment campaign. The recruitment manager is responsible for interviewing all prospective carers at the point of application and if successful will pass their details to one of three independent organisations whose social workers will complete the full fostering assessment.
- 9. Assessments usually take between 5-8 months to complete and delays can take place as a result of the number of statutory checks that are required. For example CRB (now DBS) checks and personal and professional references can take several weeks to complete. Feedback from prospective carers withdrawing from the assessment process has suggested they find found the assessment too long and protracted. The new recruitment process will minimise delays by ensuring checks are undertaken quickly and progressed monitored.
- 10. There were a total of 151 initial enquiries between 2012/13, leading to 63 application forms, 29 of which progressed to the next stage of assessment. While it is positive to receive a high number of applications, careful screening is essential to ensure that only suitable candidates progress through to full assessment and approval. The service continues to apply high standards through the quality assurance process and oversight of the independently chaired fostering panel.

#### **Additional Factors**

- 11. Although Southwark has a large fostering resource it is important to maintain recruitment to replace natural turnover. Checks and references can take time to be processed as they require careful monitoring. An administrator has been appointed specifically to process the applications and manage the checks so that unnecessary delay can be avoided.
- 12. While the above factors have contributed to fewer approvals within the 12 month period foster carers who were approved, including Family and Friends and Family Link carers led to 25 placements for children. Family Link carers provide respite care for disabled children.
- 13. The need to recruit more foster carers resulted in the decision to commission a specialist recruitment agency with a proven track record of recruiting a large number of carers for a neighbouring authority. At this time it is the only agency carrying out such a bespoke service.

- 14. The agency offers a complete service from initial enquiry to delivering the completed assessment to Southwark for quality assurance within a shorter timescale while maintaining quality.
- 15. Over the next 12 months the agency has been tasked with recruiting a pool of 50 foster carers living in and within reasonable distance of Southwark who will have the skills and qualities to meet the diverse needs of Looked After Children. They will be expected to increase the number of enquiries through their marketing campaign and reduce the time from initial enquiry to approval.
- 16. The agency has a well developed marketing campaign which includes media advertising, leaflet drops and bus adverts travelling within and outside of the borough. They also attend job fairs and hold regular information sessions. All enquiries are followed up within 24 hours and as they complete all statutory checks and references they can begin the assessments almost immediately.
- 17. The agency will deliver a 3 day Skills to Foster training on a bi-monthly basis and their assessors are all trained social workers who can arrange appointments during evenings and weekends to suit all applicants. Southwark's recruitment manager will contribute to recruitment events, the Skills to Foster training and will also be responsible for the final quality assurance to ensure all reports are fit for purpose before being presenting to Southwark's fostering panel.
- 18. Monthly performance reports on all recruitment activity will be provided and the agency directors will attend quarterly management meetings to review the strategy.
- 19. Southwark has provided the agency with all relevant practice information including current and emerging areas of need in terms of our Looked After Children.

#### **Placement Priorities**

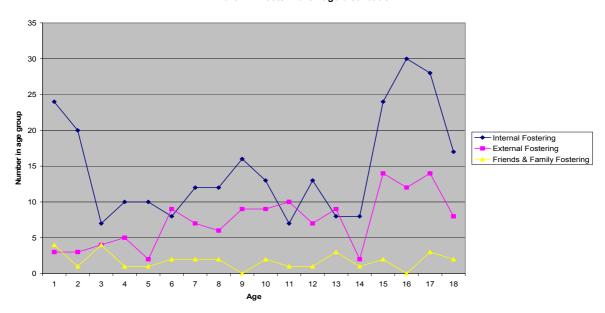
- 20. The current priorities are:
  - Increase our pool of 0 4 and 11- 15 year old placements
  - Increase the number of white carers to meet the needs of children waiting for a family
  - Develop options for Young People to be placed with Remand Carers instead of being received into the care of a residential placement, which may be hundreds of miles away
  - Increase permanent placements for individual and sibling groups
  - Increase the number of carers able to care for Looked After Children with disabilities.
- 21. Southwark intend to create anonymised profiles of children placed with IFA foster carers who are waiting for long term placements. These will be shared with current and new foster carers who have had significant child care experience and wish to foster on a permanent basis. Once new carers are approved these children can be matched and placed in line with their care plans.

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

22. The average weekly cost of placing a child with an IFA foster carer is more than

double that of an in-house placement. For example an average placement for an 11-15 year old in an IFA placement is £925, while an in-house placement is £358. Placing one Looked After Child in this age range with an in-house foster carer could produce savings of £29,484 over 52 weeks. There are 14 Looked After Children placed with IFA foster carers in this age range.

#### Children in Foster Care - age distribution



23. Internal foster carers provide care for 62% of all children placed in foster care with a significantly higher proportion throughout the age range. 77% of children aged 0-1, and 70% of all 16 year olds are placed internally. External foster carers provide care for a slightly higher proportion of 6, 11 and 13 year olds compared with the other two groups. Figures for Family and Friends carers remain fairly consistent throughout the age range.

# Dinternal Fostering External Fostering Friends & Family Fostering

Children in Foster Piecements - Ethnicity

24. While the majority of white British and black African and Caribbean children are placed with internal foster carers, a higher number of white British children are placed externally. The recruitment of white foster carers is now a priority for the service.

#### **Future Developments**

- 25. The fostering service is planning to develop a pool of more experienced foster carers to become specialist Parent & Child carers. This will mean that vulnerable parents can be assessed and supported within the borough rather than being placed in expensive residential placements outside of the borough. It will also enable carers to continue to support the parent and child for a short period following their transition back into the community.
- 26. The service is also exploring the possibility of recruiting foster carers wishing to adopt babies or very young children (concurrent carers). The foster carer would care for the child during the parent's assessment and go on to adopt if the assessment proves unsuccessful. This will prevent additional disruption for very young children.

#### **Policy implications**

27. There are no policy implications.

#### **Community impact statement**

28. Southwark fostering service gives due consideration to race, gender, disability, culture, religion and sexual orientation in relation to children being placed and adults applying to become foster carers, throughout the recruitment, assessment, and training process. Children in care are some of the most vulnerable children in the community, so an effective, high quality service is critical to ensuring positive outcomes.

#### **Resource implications**

- 29. The recruitment agency will be paid by results, therefore it is anticipated that the substantial savings resulting from Looked After Children's placements with inhouse foster carers will more than meet the cost of the contract, however half of the overall cost will be taken from the fostering recruitment budget.
- 30. An increase in the number of in-house foster carers will require an increase in social work support. The service will use the current staffing to support new carers, but should the campaign prove as successful as anticipated, an additional 2 social workers would be needed to support the new foster carers. This will be funded from savings arise from the reduction in use of independent fostering agencies.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

31. The director of legal services and strategic director of finance and corporate services noted the content of the Gateway report, containing information about the recruitment agency contract and therefore no further advice has been sought.

#### **Head of Procurement**

32. The recruitment agency's contract was overseen by procurement and therefore the process and contract were noted.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

#### **APPENDICES**

No.	Title
None	

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Dir	ector, Children's Social	Care	
Report Author	Shirley Walker, Inte	Shirley Walker, Interim Service Manager		
Version	Final			
Dated	8 July 2013			
Key Decision?	No			
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET				
MEMBER				
Officer Title Comments Sought Comments Included				
Director of Legal Services		No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance		No	No	
and Corporate Services				
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member No No			
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team 8 July 2013				

Item No.	Classification:	Date:	Meeting Name:	
9.	Open	17 July 2013	Corporate Parenting Committee	
Report title:		Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care		
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All		
From:		Director of Children's and Adults Services		

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, to all Lead Members for Children and the Directors of Children's Services.
- 2. That the Director Children's Social Care brings forward a report to the next Corporate Parenting Committee setting out how Southwark has addressed each of the points made in the letter.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. On 5 June 2013, Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families wrote to all Lead Members for Children and Directors of Children's Services about the importance of strong Corporate Parenting and embedding the voice of the child in care in local practice.

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

- 4. The letter highlights the importance of members and senior officers taking responsibility for outcomes for children across a range of areas including education, health and welfare.
- 5. Other areas highlighted for attention include:
  - Holding regular meetings with the Children in Care Council (Speakerbox) and listening to children;
  - Improving the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service and receiving regular reports on performance and impact;
  - Ensuring children in care have access to advocacy services;
  - Enabling the voice of the child to be heard when decisions are made about placement changes;
  - Making sure that all children in care know about the NSPCC helpline;
  - Ensure that children in care are informed of their entitlements.
- 6. It is proposed that a detailed report is presented to the next Corporate Parenting Committee which sets out in detail how these issues are being addressed by Children's Social Care and partner agencies.

#### **Policy implications**

7. There are no new policy implications relevant to this report.

#### **Community impact statement**

8. The committee will receive a further report which sets out how Southwark has addressed the points in the letter identifying any relevant community impact implications at this point.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

No.	Title
None	

#### **APPENDICES**

No.	Title
' '	Letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families "Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care."

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care			
Report Author	Rory Patterson, Director Children's Social Care			
Version	Final			
Dated	20 June 2013			
Key Decision?	No			
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER				
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included	
Director of Legal Services		No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance and		No	No	
Corporate Services				
Cabinet Member		No	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional		l Team	8 July 2013	

#### **APPENDIX 1**



#### **Edward Timpson MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

To Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services

5 June 2013

Dear Director,

#### Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care

I am writing to you today around the importance of strong corporate parenting and embedding the voice of the child in care in local practice.

Children and young people in care have a unique place in society. Central government and local authorities share responsibility for being their corporate parents. I know that each one of you is as committed and determined as I am about giving children in care the support and opportunities they need to turn their lives around. Many local councillors have become champions of the children in their care and are already making a real difference to improving their lives.

I want all Lead Members for Children's Services, working with Directors of Children's Services, to have a real sense of parental responsibility for their outcomes. This concern should encompass their education, their health and welfare and their aspirations as they enter adulthood. I recognise that it is a huge challenge and responsibility to be a good corporate parent, particularly if you are a newly elected councillor or Lead Member. That is why we have funded the National Children's Bureau to develop materials, based on the best local practice, to support corporate parents to narrow the gap between the outcomes of looked-after children and their peers. These were published today at: <a href="https://www.ncb.org.uk/corporateparenting">www.ncb.org.uk/corporateparenting</a>. Please use these to improve the support you provide to children in your care.

#### Children in Care Councils (CiCC)

At the heart of the care system should be the voice of the child. Listening and talking to children is crucial to their development. It helps them learn thinking skills and improves self-esteem and confidence. Children in care know better than anyone else what works well, what is less successful, and what needs to change. They need to be able to challenge and influence strategic planning and day to day decisions. That is why every local authority has a Children in Care

Council and I would urge Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services to hold regular meetings with their local CICC to discuss how support for children in care can be improved.

#### Role of Independent Review Officers (IROs)

IROs also have a key role in promoting the voice of the child. I recently held a roundtable discussion with IRO Managers and local government and voluntary sector partners to consider the role of the IRO. We agreed there was some excellent local practice which needed to be spread to all local authorities. Key aspects of a good service that we identified are:

- IROs having the required skills, training, and knowledge to undertake all duties set out in the IRO Handbook;
- IROs having manageable caseloads and the ability to effectively challenge poor practice;
- The quality of the IRO service is continuously improved by managers and IROs acting on feedback from children and young people;
- Annual reports on IROs performance are published and discussed with lead members and DCS.

I would ask Directors of Children's Services to use the forthcoming Ofsted thematic report on IROs to review and improve their services in line with its recommendations.

#### Advocacy

I meet regularly with groups of children in care and separately with care-leavers and have been struck by how many of them say they do not have access to advocacy services. All children in care have a statutory right to have access to advocacy services and I would ask all Lead Members and DCS' to ensure that children in your care know how to access your local services. I am also delighted to announce that the Government will, from April 2013, support both the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and Voice to provide an advocacy advice service for looked-after children and care leavers.

#### "Freezing" decisions whilst a complaint is investigated

The Children's Rights Director recently told me that he regularly has to remind local authorities of the statutory guidance on "freezing" decisions. I would like reiterate that when a decision is made that a child objects to e.g. a placement move, the decision should be frozen whilst the complaint is investigated. (*Getting the best from Complaints*. Statutory Guidance 2004.) Of course, the decision may well not alter, but the key point is that a child is given the chance to have their voice heard before final decisions are made.

#### NSPCC Childline number and services

The NSPCC Childline is an important service which offers children in care help, advice and counselling. Many children and young people in care experience

instances of loneliness, depression or a feeling of isolation. A child in care can contact a ChildLine counsellor at any time who will listen and offer advice and support. I am therefore asking all Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members to ensure children in their care know about the NSPCC Childline. The NSPCC website is: <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/">http://www.nspcc.org.uk/</a>; and the Childline number is: 0800 1111.

#### Keeping children informed

Children in care often tell me that they do not know what they are entitled to while they are in care. I am aware that many of you already provide very helpful and accessible information, often utilising innovative websites. The Department has also produced a looked-after children and care-leavers' entitlements information sheet, which can be found at

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childrenincare/a00 208882/leavers

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services of the need to regularly review and improve the information given to children in care so that they are aware of their legal entitlements.

Thank you for all you are doing to support children in care.

**Edward Timpson MP** 

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

<b>Item No.</b> 10.	Classification: Open	<b>Date:</b> 17 July 2013	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee	
Report title	:	Corporate Parer 2013/14	nting Committee – Work Plan	
Ward(s) or	groups affected:	All		
From:		Director, Children's Social Care		

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee review the work plan for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### Role and function of the corporate parenting committee

- 2. The constitution for the municipal year 2013/2014 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 cabinet on a twice yearly basis.
  - 10. To make recommendations to the relevant cabinet decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the cabinet.
  - 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 corporate parenting committee agreed on 7 July 2010 to move towards thematic meetings and has followed this framework since.

#### **Policy implications**

4. The policy agenda has been measured against the 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 on these themes.

#### Future agenda items

5. The following work plan sets out themes for future meetings.

#### 17 July 2013

#### **Making a Positive Contribution**

- Feedback from joint meetings between Speaker Box and members of the corporate parenting committee and Speaker Box action plan
- The Leaving Care Charter
- Progress report in respect of fostering recruitment initiatives (requested 29 April 2013)
- Letter from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families "Corporate Parenting and the Voice of the Child in Care".

#### 4 November 2013

#### **Enjoy and Achieve Theme**

- Key Stage 2 results and confirmed GCSE results
- Report from the Virtual Head Teacher
- Mid year performance review
- Pupil performance. Interim position statement with regard to data collection (requested 26 February 2013).

#### **25 February 2014**

#### **Be Healthy Theme**

- Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2013-14
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Carelink.

#### 28 April 2014

#### **Stay Safe Theme**

- Initiatives being undertaken to effect continuous improvement within the safeguarding and looked after children service (requested 26 February 2013)
- Annual report on fostering services
- Children in Care and Youth Offending
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report
- Report back to review the impact of LASPO on the council in terms of workload and cost (requested 29 April 2013 meeting)
- Placement and Stability
- LAC who go missing from care and placed out of borough.

#### **July 2014**

#### **Economic Wellbeing Theme**

- Adolescent and After Care Service
- NEET Strategy (Not in Education, Employment or Training) (including university support, apprenticeships, coaching, drop-in services, connexions, Southwark Works, training partnership)
- Impact of welfare reform on looked after children, providing detail of case studies (requested 26 February 2013).

#### Ongoing/monitoring

6. Performance monitoring. Committee to receive report/s of any significant variations evident from the monthly performance review of looked after children and care leavers services.

#### **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 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ie ListMeetings.aspx?Cld=129&Year=2 013		

#### **AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care		
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	5 July 2013		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services		No	No
Strategic Director	of Finance and	No	No
Corporate Services			
<b>Cabinet Member</b>		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team 5 July 2013			5 July 2013

#### CORPORATE PARENTING DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-14** 

Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Paula Thornton Tel: 020 7525 4395 NOTE:

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Membership		Constitutional Team	
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle Councillor Catherine Bowman Councillor Rowenna Davis Councillor Barrie Hargrove Councillor Eliza Mann	1 1 1 1	Paula Thornton	9
Councillor Wilma Nelson Councillor Althea Smith	1 1	Total:	29
Reserves		Dated: 4 July 2013_pt	
Councillor Poddy Clark Councillor Patrick Diamon Councillor Helen Hayes Councillor Lisa Rajan	1 1 1 1		
Co-opted members			
Barbara Hills Carolyn Martin (external)	1 1		
Children's Services			
Romi Bowen Rory Patterson Alasdair Smith Patricia Rowe Liz Britton Lucy Milich	1 1 1 1 1		
Legal	1		
Sarah Feasey	·		