

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 November 2012	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Tell It How It Was Report 2011-12	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Looked After Children in Southwark	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee reviews and note the following document attached as Appendix 1: "Tell it How It Was 2011-12".
2. That the recommendations at the end Appendix 1 be noted.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The 'Tell It How It Was' project was devised in 2007. The aim of the project is to consult with young people once they had become care leavers, to hear real, live accounts of their overall care experiences.
4. By identifying the themes from the young people's interviews the Speaker Box Council present and make recommendations to the Corporate Parenting Committee and Heads of Service. The information received would be available to shape and improve services for future looked after children

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. 40 young care leavers were interviewed by Speaker box members between July 2011 - February 2012. The main issues discussed are summarised in the report as:
 - Preparation for leaving care and independent living
 - Relationships with key workers
 - Placements
 - Suggested improvements to the leaving care process
6. Actions following the report include:
 - Report to corporate parents in an informal meeting on 15 February 2012
 - The report is to be presented to the Annual Foster Carer's Meeting
 - Speaker Box Council met with a number of councillors, housing officers and social work managers to present a proposal to prevent young people from getting into arrears. This has been accepted and is currently being implemented.
 - The Speaker Box Presentation for the Children's Services Induction Programme has been revised to include the new findings.

Community impact statement

7. This item will have an impact on the work that the council does with looked after children and their carers. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.
8. These consultations are intended to improve the outcome for looked after children.

Consultation

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	'Tell it How It Was' 2011-12

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Jackie Cook, Head Of Social Work Improvement and Quality Assurance	
Version	Final	
Dated	22 October 2012	
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 Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	22 October 2012	