

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 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 be 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 childhood 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.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/cl%20charter%20final%2025%20oct%202012.pdf	Irene Permaul 020 7525 3840

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, Policy Officer		
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 and Corporate Services		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			8 July 2013