

SPEAKER BOX COUNCIL



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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.

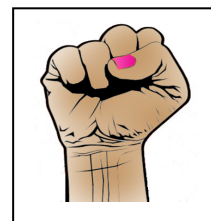
The SBC meets monthly at Peckham library.

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

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