

Speakerbox



SPEAKERBOX

The voice for children looked after and care leavers.

A GUIDE TO WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE ARE



Speakerbox, is a group of looked after young people who care about the rights and welfare of young people in care. We do what we can to make sure that young looked after peoples views are taken into account.

We are quite well known in the Council and have been asked to do a number of high profile things.

We are always on the lookout for other young people to get involved so look at the back page for more info on how to join , if you're interested. We would love to have you join!

Our Aims...

Speaker Box aims to help make life better for children looked after and care leavers.

These are our aims:

- ◆ Inform young people of their rights
- ◆ Encourage them to ask informed questions
- ◆ Encourage managers to take into account young peoples views and opinions
- ◆ Making sure manager and workers do what they are supposed to do.
- ◆ Support them to develop and express their views, values and feelings
- ◆ Enable them to make more informed decisions about their care and treatment
- ◆ Support them to develop meaningful and trusting friendships

Thanks for reading this.....

Cut and return the bottom part to us .

Name:

Age:

Address:

Tel No.



IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED...

If you would like to get involved, just txt us on 079 587 909 51 and we'll call you back!

Or, you can fill in the form below and send it to :

Southwark Council
Speakerbox
QAU
PO BOX 64529 London
SE1 5LX

It's that easy. You don't have to get involved in everything we do, just what you are interested in, and you can get some great experiences!

Our top reasons for getting involved:

1. Meet new people
2. Get rewards like vouchers for the work you do
3. Possible get certificates and sometimes even qualifications
4. We eat out—a lot!
5. Increase your knowledge on certain things which can help you in your own circumstances
6. Get some great experiences and references for when you are looking for a job.
7. Change you life in care
8. Change other's life in care

Some of our accomplishments so far...

Speakerbox have done many things, from creating a quarterly magazine to sitting on interview panels for new staff members.

These are some of our accomplishments so far:

- ◆ We have sat on an interview panel for the appointment of the new Assistant Director for Children's Services.
 - ◆ We have taken part in a number of conferences including the conference which takes place every year for staff that work in child protection to help them understand what its like from a young persons point of view.
 - ◆ We write a magazine for times a year, which goes out to over 600 young people.
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- ◆ We have given talks and performed role plays at a number of events, most recently the 'Young London Matters, London Pledge' conference
 - ◆ We have created a membership card which is given to all members of Speakerbox, it has all the golden rules on it.
 - ◆ We have been a part of training for new social workers, foster carers and also social work students at Southbank University (and we are getting a qualification out of this)
 - ◆ We have created the 'ten golden rules' and consequences for Social Workers if they are broken. The ten golden rules are basic rules that we feel social workers should be doing anyway.
 - ◆ We have created a young peoples cook book which have great recipes under categories like ' meals to impress your man/lady'!

What we do on a regular basis...

- ◆ We create a quarterly magazine that goes out to approx 500 young people who are either in care or a care leaver. The magazine includes real life stories and problems, and information about their rights. Recently we have added a Manage Ur Manager page, which basically gets answers by managers to some questions that young people may have and also, gives the chance to big up the managers who they feel are doing a good job!
- ◆ We meet with the corporate parenting committee (a bunch of politician who run Southwark), to air our view, chat about the way things are done and changes we would like and just let them know what is going on and what we feel could and should be improved.
- ◆ We meet with the Head of Services, Chris Saunders, to discuss what is important to young people and to discuss any issues that you send through to Speakerbox.
- ◆ We guide young people through the complaints procedure and offer advice to them.
- ◆ We do presentations, inductions and host conferences — anything really!

What we are working on at the moment...

- ◆ We were successful in requesting for 13+ to have a free leisure pass which was agreed by the corporate parenting committee. Caroline and Keisha are now working setting up a gym day, where young people can go to the gym as a group to try to encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ This year, we are planning to set up a rights surgery to inform young people of their rights.
- ◆ We have just been successful in applying for a grant to buy a software package which will able us to design and print the magazine off entirely by ourselves. We have also bought a laptop so that young people can work on the magazine flexibly and will be offering valuable software training.
- ◆ We are starting on the 'Tell it How it was' project, which is basically, us interviewing care leavers to find out what they thought of the service then feeding this back to the managers
- ◆ We are workign on improving the magazine, by adding a page dedicated to the Head of Service for him to inform us about any new changes and to answer our questions.
- ◆ We are working on trying to increase care leaver grants which are currently £800 + another £500 at manager discretion.