

SPEAKERBOX

Children's Rights and
participation



What is Speakerbox?

- o Speakerbox is a group that gives a voice to Children in care & Care Leavers.
- o To help make life better for Children in care & Care Leavers.
 - We inform young people of their rights
 - Help young people to make more informed decisions about care
 - Have fun while building relationships



Who works with Speakerbox?

- o A Children's Rights and participation worker
- o A Speakerbox project worker
- o An apprentice – sometimes a care leaver!
- o Barnados provide an advocacy service for all young people in care and care leavers

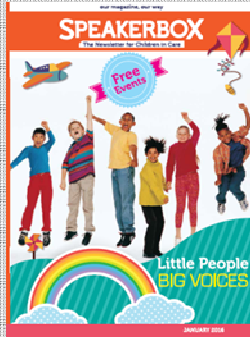
The things we do!

- We send out a quarterly magazines to over 700 young people. This has all information about Speakerbox, advocacy, events and contact numbers.
- There is a sensory garden project that we are running at Talfourd and will be running throughout the half terms.
- We run residential in half terms where we take young people to activity camp sites.
- We also run day trips out for all age groups Primary, Secondary and care leavers.
- Crisis support

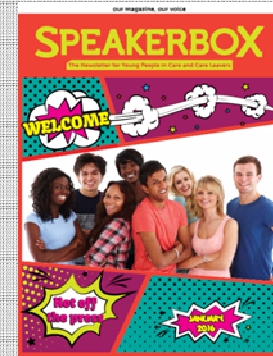


A few more things we do

- o Speakerbox runs workshops and consultations on a number of topics for the young people to get involved in.
- o We produced a guide for care Leavers
- o Last year we hosted the annual awards ceremonies for children in care.
- o Organise and host the Children in care Council.



Magazine

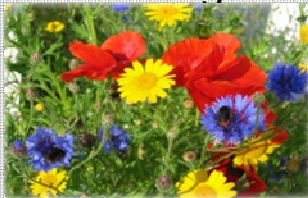


- This is sent out to over 700 children in care.
- Provides information on Speakerbox, Banardo's and up coming events that each young person can attend.
- There is also a wide range of contact numbers provided to help young people.
- This is a great way to provide information in a fun way for all young people.

Sensory Garden



- o We have regenerated the garden in Talfourd to make this a sensory garden
- o Planting a range of different flowers
- o Painting walls, floors and steps
- o We aim to get the whole garden sensory covering all 5 senses.
- o It's a place all young people can call their own, where they can make new friends and feel safe.
- o It's a great place where all ages can come together and have some fun!
- o 60 young people attending across one week in Summer
- o 15 volunteers from across the organisation supporting the scheme.
- o Around half of the young people were care leavers (remaining were primary and secondary)
- o Barnardos and Young Minds attending and taking referrals.
- o A targeted emotional health session with Young Minds.



Residential/Trips



- o This is where we whisk the young people off for an activity week or weekend where there is nothing but fun.
- o We do these in the half term weeks and aim to take up to 12 young people.
- o In the half term weeks we also arrange day trips out for certain age groups - primary, secondary and care leavers.
- o In this picture is where 2 Speakerbox members had to the chance to meet Flawless dance crew and go back stage of Peter Pan.
- o In 2014 care leavers had the amazing opportunity to go New York.

Help lines, Chicken & Chat, Barnardo's and Crisis

- These are a number of services that we offer to all young people.
- Help lines are provided if a young person needs additional support.
- Chicken and chat is where we will meet you anytime or place have some food and chat.
- Barnardo's is the advocacy team we use at Speakerbox.
- Crisis support is where we help with arrears, safety with accommodation as well emotional are unhappy with your placement.





Workshops/Consultations

- We offer a range of workshop's and consultations on different topics to help young people for example; 'Getting Vexed', On Relationships, Drug & Alcohol and safety and keeping safe.
- These have been very successful with a great turn out of young people participating.
- This is a chance for young people to attend and tell us how they are feeling, so we can provide them with the right support.
- We work alongside young minds in delivering these services, which has given us a chance to help inform and help a number of young people.

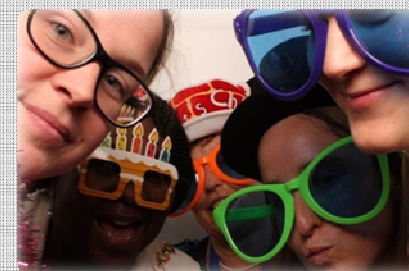
Emotional Health

- We have run some great workshops and consultations related to emotional health which include resilience, mental health, and health.
- We have had a great response to these with great numbers of young people attending.
- These workshops are a chance for young people to come forward and ask questions as well as professions providing information.
- If any young person has any concerns or worries ways to deal with any issues they are facing.



Award ceremony

- This was a great opportunity to celebrate all young people in care.
- We celebrated achievements under the categories of; Sports, education, peer leadership, personal achievement and creative achievement.
- We had young people hosting, singing dancing and playing the guitar.
- We also run a mental health workshop in the space provided as well as a fun photo booth for all to have fun in.
- This was a great evening with loads of fun, laughter and celebration.



Young Inspectors

- This is for care leavers to get involved with commissioning and report on the quality of semi independent accommodation.
- We check the safety and wellbeing of the young people.
- Report to commissioning any issues with the accommodation.
- This is a chance to get Care leavers involved and make a change.



New



Belongings

- Was a project for care leavers
- Barriers to re-engage back from care leavers. Our areas we are focusing on are; Pathway planning, accommodation, hard to reach young people and mental health.
- We conduct surveys for care leavers to help us tackle things that need improving.
- One of the main components of the project is completing a consultation with care leavers to understand what they would like to improve in Southwark.
- 1) Wanting more preparation and skills training for being an independent and happy adult
- 2) Quality and location of placement
- 3) Concern over entitlements
- 4) Disengagement or no knowledge of personal pathway plan



Children in care Council

- o Local authority function as corporate parents for children in care and care leavers.
- o Our aim is to care for the young people in a way that a parent would care for their own children.
- o We get young people together to have meetings with councillors to talk about issues and good things about being in care.
- o This runs on a termly basis and is a chance for children in care and care leavers to say what they think and what they want Southwark Council to improve or strengthen.

Young People & What we have achieved

- o This past year has been a great year for young people and trying to make a change. We have raised a few themes with the children in care council;
- o Relationships with foster carers
- o Feeling safe in Southwark
- o Quality of accommodation
- o Pocket money and financial allowances
- o Work and training opportunities for children in care and care leavers.
- o Support for young mothers.
- o What a good foster carer looks like.
- o Guide for care leavers was produced
- o The 11 golden rules was drawn up!

Thank you for watching!

- o We hope you enjoyed learning about what Speakerbox is about.
- o Thank you for attending our presentation.
- o If you have any questions, please ask!

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