

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 February 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Speakerbox updates	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the progress of the Children's Rights Officer with speakerbox on
 - the Tell It How It Was Project;
 - the 'Children in Care Council' for Southwark ;
 - the Southwark Pledge and the London Pledge.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Committee approves
 - the name 'Speaker Box Council' for Southwark's Children in Care Council
 - The Golden Rules as the Southwark Pledge
3. That the Corporate Parenting Committee agrees to accept further updates on these in the second half of 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The Tell It How It Was Project involves care leavers interviewing care leavers to find out how their experience of being looked after in Southwark was. From their answers informed improvements to services and resources can be planned. An action plan from the 2009-2010 questionnaires has been drawn up between Speaker Box and head of LAC Services to implement the recommendations from the Project. This action plan is attached at appendix 1.
5. Every Council is required to have a Children in Care Council, as first stated in the DCSF white paper Care Matters: Time for Change 2007, enshrined in law in the Children and Young Peoples Act 2009. A Children in Care Council is expected to enable regular good quality dialogue and involvement in planning and delivering service. It must have direct links with the Director of Children's Services and elected members.
6. There is not an agreed framework for establishing Children in Care Council and many different approaches have been adopted by councils throughout England. A summary report of these different styles is attached at Appendix 2 for members information and to assist them in comparing what happens in Southwark with other Local Authorities.
7. In Southwark much progress has been made prior to any the introduction of this statutory requirement .Speaker Box group was established in 2005 to support children looked after to meet, voice their views and have regular input into decision making via direct consultations , meetings with Senior management and in latter years meetings with Corporate Parenting Committee.

8. The Speaker Box Group is now in the process of formalising Children in Care Council which they are choosing to call Speaker Box Council. A report on the progress of the Speaker Box Council is attached at appendix 3.
9. Local Authorities are also required to adopt a Pledge or a promise of what standards of care they will strive to provide for their children in care. In Southwark, again prior to this statutory requirement, Speaker Box developed the 10 Golden Rules with looked after children. These have been widely circulated and copies are available for elected members along with the Speaker Box members cards. Speaker Box wish to keep the 10 Golden Rules as Southwark's Pledge. These will be reviewed and updated by the Speaker Box council. The list of Golden Rules for Southwark is show at Appendix 4.
10. In Addition, London Councils have been asked to sign up to the London Pledge which is attached at Appendix 5. Many Local Authorities have not signed up or have selected those pledges which they will sign up to. Many of the pledges are aspirational but some could have resource implications or are ambiguous in wording. Speaker Box have identified those which they feel need further discussion with the Head of Looked After Services in attached report at Appendix 6. The final outcome of these discussions will be presented later in the year to the Committee.
11. It is hoped that through collaborative working and pooling of resources between Youth Services, 13-19 Partnership and Childrens Rights Service that the enhancing of an existing care leavers apprenticeship post to a pilot full time position dedicated to working with Looked After Children to develop the Speaker Box Council and other positive activities, information and consultation looked after children will be possible. A draft job description is attached at Appendix 7. The Corporate Parenting Committees support is sought for this.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

12. Not applicable
13. The Children in Care Council will require funding to set up and maintain the Council. Speaker Box has estimated a budget of £5000 for the running of the Speaker Box Council during 2010- 2011. This funding can be obtained from within the existing Childrens Rights Budget.
14. Funding for the pilot position of Speaker Box Council Project Worker is being sought from a pooling of resource from several services but has not yet been secured.

Community Impact Statement

15. The Speaker Box Council will ensure the views of looked after children in Southwark, including those from black and ethnic minorities and Children with Disabilities , various ages , males and females are sought and represented to Senior Management and Elected Members to contribute to the decision making in their lives.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Children In Care Councils The London Pledge Speaker Box Council Update Pledge Update Tell it How it was JD for Speaker Box Project worker.	Southwark Council Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1	Rosin McManus Tel: 020 7525 3899

LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
1	Tell It How It Was – Action Plan
2	Summary of different styles of Children in Care Councils
3	Progress report on the Speaker Box Council
4	Golden Rules for Southwark
5	London Pledge
6	Speaker Box report in response to London Pledge
7	Draft Job Description for Care Leavers Apprenticeship post

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services and Safeguarding	
Report Author	Roisin McManus, Caroline Essiet , Fariah Nanhoo	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 February 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sough	Comments included
Strategic Director for Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here	No	
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	5 February 2010	

Appendix 1

Tell It As It Was Action Plan

Introduction

Tell it as it was is a project delivered by Speakerbox in partnership with the CLA Service to obtain “exit interviews” for care leavers. Speakerbox have trained a number of young people in care and care leavers to undertake exit interviews so that there can be a formal and effective feedback process to CLA Services to monitor service delivery and shape service improvement.

The pilot exercise involved interviewing 10 care leavers and was presented as a summary document at the Corporate Parenting and Speakerbox meeting on the 26th October.

Whilst it was recognised that feedback from 10 care leavers was a small cohort, never the less there were some learning points which could be taken forward.

The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee requested that an action plan be drawn up including how “tell it as it was” would be continued.

Action Plan

Action Point	Timescale	Lead Person
1) Summary document to be developed into a power point presentation	Dec 2009	FN
2) Briefing of main findings to go in Speakerbox magazine and invite all care leavers to telephone in if they wish to partake in an interview	Dec 2009	FN
3) Circulation of Speakerbox magazine should be expanded to include care leavers so that they have an additional information resource regarding services and new developments.	Dec 2009	CE
4) Tell it as it was will be delivered as a major annual event during each summer holiday period for two weeks. This will build upon the model developed in 2009 using a care leaver where 80 young people were interviewed in the Bradenham A & AC Service reception area. This would also be complimented through the interview team (trained care leavers) also undertaking telephone interviews from Bradenham between 4pm and 6pm for those care leavers who are in employment education and training.	August 2010	Speakerbox/Children Rights Officer and CLA Service

Action Point	Timescale	Lead Person
5) Summary report to be sent directly to the 10 young people who were interviewed and enclose the powerpoint presentation (see decision 1 above)		FN/CE
6) Delivery of staff briefing sessions using powerpoint presentations as follows:		

a) to be integrated into the section of the foster carer pre approval training delivered by Speakerbox four times per year.	Jan 2010	Speakerbox
b) presentation to Adolescent and Aftercare Service	April 2010	CS
c) presentation to Southwark's Fostering Service	March 2010	CS
d) presentation to Southwark's Foster Care Association (SFCA) to accompany Chris Saunders to one of his yearly meetings with SFCA to present findings	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox
7) Recommendation to be made that the tell it as it was process would be fed back to the SFCA on an annual basis. It is considered possible that the SFCA might wish to work with Speakerbox to shape some of the questions.	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox/SFCA
8) SFCA to be asked to summarise the feedback and distribute it to all their members with the minutes of the meeting	March 2010	CS/Speakerbox/Chair of SFCA
9) The fostering service will review its policy regarding sleepovers (recent government guidance) and ensure this is communicated with all carers and fostering link social workers	April 2010	S Sinclair
Action Point	Timescale	Lead Person
10) The Adolescent and Aftercare Service has been planning the development of its group work session to deliver more "open" access through the development of a drop in service. After a significant planning process it is expected the drop in service will become available from Jan 2010. This will meet many of the needs identified through the tell it as it was exercise relating to finance, isolation, ongoing support and transition to independence	Jan 2010	A&AC/CS
11) The Children's Rights Officer will obtain posters (and laminate) for the Bradenham reception area relating to home tasks and semi independence	Jan 2010	Children's Rights Officer

training. In addition a number of CD's will be ordered which will promote financial learning for distribution and use in the Bradenham IT Suite		
12) Introduction of personal allowance scheme changes to leaving care grant and personal banking facilities will be introduced from Jan 2010. This programme has been developed in consultation with Speakerbox over the last nine months and will respond to many of the issues identified in tell it as it was relating to finance and managing one's own accommodation on a limited budget.	Jan - June 2010	CS
13) Expectation will be reinforced that Foster Carers attend open evenings NB: PEP's are attended by Carers. Compliance will be closely monitored by Fostering Services and continue to be reinforced in pre approval training and fostering procedures	April 2010	SS/CS

Appendix 2



Establishing the Children In Care Council Network – June 2009

This document aims to provide a first insight into the development of Children In Care Councils. It is being published to enable CICC's to begin working together sharing best practice.

NCERCC contacted all Local Authorities in England and asked them to describe their CICC vision and activity. 43 responses have been received so far and, with permission, these have been edited to produce this document. We hope it will act as an encouragement for more CICC's to respond to Charlotte Levene clevene@ncb.org.uk as soon as possible and a further publication will follow.

CROA and NCERCC are establishing a CICC Consortium.

The work of the CICC Consortium will be to

- Provide a national CICC network - this document is the first step
- A website for sharing developments – in construction – with direct input from each CICC
- A national conference – being planned for this Autumn
- Training – in development

The Consortium will include CICC representatives from each council at regional and national meetings, be responsible for relaying information to and from meetings and for informing the Consortium of training needs. Independent organisations are being encouraged to actively involve themselves with the Consortium, assisting with resources and funding. Project funding is being sought.

If you wish to be a part of the Consortium, please contact kamna@croa.org.uk.

Barking and Dagenham

Darren McAughtrie, Safeguarding & Rights Service, Participation & Children's Rights Team
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Skittles is the name of the young people's group who are responsible for listening to and sharing with Senior Managers within Safeguarding and Rights, the experiences, ideas and suggestions of young people in the care of Barking and Dagenham. Skittles is now operating as the Children in Care Council.

As a member of Skittles the main role of each young person is to consult with other young people in care in their age group and bring back their viewpoints, opinions, ideas, suggestions and comments to Children's Rights staff. These views will be fed back to Senior Managers. Children's Rights staff will be responsible for making sure that young people get feedback on how their ideas and suggestions have been actioned.

Key Facts

What Skittles Representatives can expect

- To receive training and support in their role
- To learn new skills that they can use in life
- Clear direction
- Payment for the work that they do
- To have the opportunity to put ideas forward to Senior Managers
- To be asked to work on new projects and policies that will make a difference to Children and Young People in Care in Barking and Dagenham.
- To be always given support and guidance by the Participation and Children's Rights Team.

What will be expected from Skittles representatives

- Attendance at meetings (to be scheduled monthly)
- That they consult young people in their allocated age range
- Attendance and contribution to meetings like Members Corporate Parenting Panel (MCP) and the 16+ activities board when asked.
- To work as part of a team with the other Skittles members and the Participation Officer to support each other.

Barnet

Marion Ingram, Acting Deputy Director of Children's Service, Safeguarding and Social Care

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Barnet have started to do some preparation in terms of how they want their Children In Care Council to look. Barnet are creating a participation post through the 'Care Matters' funding and this post will support the Council.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Sofia Hussain,

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Blackburn with Darwen Children in Care Council has been established just over a year. There are currently a group of care leavers who are representing all BwD children and young people in care. In February 2009 the Council was advertised to

young people and names were gathered of those interested in joining “urcarecouncil” and an informal recruitment event is due to take place shortly.

Council meetings will take place monthly and Council reports/ feedback will be posted on the new dedicated website urcarecouncil.com

The short terms aims of the council are to get more children and young people in care of BwD registered onto the website and for all council members to continue to attend conferences/ workshops related to Children in Care Councils.

Brighton

Liz Rugg, Assistant Director- Specialist Services,
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In March 2009 staff and young people organized a Children In Care Councils launch event. The event included consulting on the Brighton and Hove pledge. When a final agreed version of the pledge is in place, it will form the basis of a launch event for a revamped Corporate Parenting group that will involve the Children in Care Council plus elected members.

Bristol

Bristol Children in Care Council (CiCC)
Mark Bandalli, Policy & Project Officer, Care Matters
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The group meets monthly and is comprised of ten regular attendees aged 11-17 all currently living in foster care. Two young people who live in residential care are being integrated and two young people who are leaving care are attached to the council.

The Children in Care Council discuss the issues that they feel are affecting the care population of Bristol at their monthly meeting. These views are recorded. This is then passed to the Corporate Parenting Panel through the Children in Care Council chair who raises the issues at the meeting. The current plan is to also submit a DVD / Film to the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Corporate Parenting Panel discusses the issues raised and a person is designated to respond.

It is hoped that the Children in Care Council will begin to take more creative control of the Bristol children in care RVOICE magazine. The Children in Care Council have closely scrutinised the draft Bristol Pledge and the council have begun working on the designs and content for the young people’s website.

The Children in Care Council has room for expansion and it is hoped that more young people will be recruited into the group. Providing children in care who are not members of the Children in Care Council with the option of filming their views via camera allows views from children outside the council to be represented and included in the DVD submissions to the CPP. The Children in Care Council is an ongoing project. There is still some way to go and increasing representation from primary school children, children with disabilities and care leavers will be specifically targeted over the next 12 months.

Calderdale

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Calderdale has a Children in Care Council that meets quarterly with the lead member, a councillor from the corporate parenting support group, the Children's Social Care Head of Service, the Group Director, the Principal Officer for Looked After Children and the Children's Rights worker. Calderdale try to get as many children/young people as possible to attend.

A newsletter called V4U is created, designed and published by the young people after the meeting and distributed widely so that all children/young people in care/foster carers, professionals are aware of the issues that are being raised and the actions being taken.

The Children's Rights worker is becoming actively involved in trying to ensure that all children/young people in care have a voice, irrespective of where they live. Through the issues raised, new initiatives are being developed e.g. a project has just been launched for free leisure activities for children/young people and foster carer's birth children.

Calderdale are looking to promote the involvement of particularly vulnerable groups of children/young people in care, for example, separated children and disabled children.

They are considering training for all councillors on the corporate parenting role and are involved in a joint project with Kirklees, Bradford and York in completing an audio CD.

Cornwall

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Cornwall are planning to start a Children in Care Council in the near future. The young people may wish to give it a different title. There is already a young persons in care steering group for Voice for Us, known as V4US (a participation group for Children in Care) which has over 80 members. There is also a Corporate Parenting Stakeholder Forum and 3 young people in care attend. The Children in Care Council would be part of the Corporate Parenting strategy and would feed in to the Stakeholder Forum and Executive Steering Group and be key consultants in developing and improving services and approaches.

Croydon

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Croydon is committed to setting up a Children in Care Council and have undertaken some initial work with the intention is to have a Children in Care Council established by the autumn.

Derbyshire

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A group of up to 15 young people meet monthly and have done so for 15 months. The group ranges from 14 – 19 years old and include young people in foster care, residential and living independently. They have produced a top 10 issues list that has been answered by senior managers and elected members and are now formally linked to the corporate parenting committee of the County Council. Two members of the Children in Care Council go to Corporate parenting meetings and 2 elected members attend each Children in Care Council. The group are working on a corporate parenting pledge that will have 5 static statements and 5 that will change each year with a letter to all children in care explaining how the annual pledges have been met. The Council has been made up of people recruited through Make a Difference Days run by the participation worker but from April 2010 will be voted in at the bi-annual vote for the youth council when there will also be 2 seats put aside for children in care.

Devon

Mark Goodman, Participation Worker (Children in Care)
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The Children in Care Council work has been developed over the last 2 years. In April 2007 a Participation Worker was appointed half time to ensure that the voices of children in care were listened to. Since then the Youth Service and Children in Care Service have developed a partnership to facilitate this work. Elected members and key officers have been included throughout.

The involvement of key politicians and senior officers, including Saturdays and evenings, has enabled young people to speak directly to an adult with significant power.

In May 2008 young people came together to form a Children in Care Council planning group and they have been responsible for developing “Children’s Voice” the name they have given to Devon’s Children in Care Council. Whilst doing this they have also been involved in:

- writing and designing the Devon’s Pledge to young people in care.
- various pieces of consultation
- having their voice heard about placement stability through being videoed and this being shown to the councillors responsible for their care.
- attending corporate parenting meetings
- staff recruitment processes

The Children in Care Council (Children’s Voice) has now been formed and was launched at the Children in Care Awards Evening held at County Hall in January 2009. The Young People were fully involved by doing a presentation and running a display stand at the launch evening. A further two staff have been employed to develop this work with the young people making up one of the two interview panels. Two of the young people are currently helping with the design and development of a new Webpage (part of Devon’s wider participation of young people agenda “Geturvoiceheard” website) and also a Face Book Page.

Some of our Objectives for 2009/10

- Children and young people have their say and make suggestions about improving their care

- Monitoring that the Devon Pledge to Children in Care is making a difference
- Young people support other children and young people in care
- Young people involved in Children's Voice have a range of accreditation opportunities
- We celebrate the achievement of children and young people in care
- Adults better understand how children and young people can engage with Children's Voice depending upon their interests and abilities
- Measuring the difference made by the work of the Participation Workers

Dorset

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In Dorset the views of children and young people in care and care leavers have been surveyed. The outline proposal for a Children in Care Council is to set up three regional groups and to draw representation from each of these groups to form a small central group who would be the interface with officers/elected members, via the Corporate Parenting Panel (or an adapted version of this). The intention would be to channel views/initiatives from young people to officers/members, and to provide an opportunity for officers to seek consultation with the Children in Care Council on staff generated policy initiatives. Dorset plans to employ some co-ordination/facilitation time from sessional staff/care leavers via the local Children's Rights Service (run by Action for Children).

Dudley

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Dudley is in the process of establishing its Children in Care Council. The council will emerge from the work developing Dudley's pledge to children in care. It is envisaged that the Council will be up and running towards the end of 2009. The intention is that the Children in Care Council will hold to account the delivery of those things contained in the pledge.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Joanna Davis, Participation Manager, Children, Families and Adult Support Services

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The East Riding of Yorkshire Council has a Children in Care Council. The group was established in 2008 and has active membership. East Riding are reviewing how they can ensure the active participation of children and young people on the Children in Care Council but balance this with keeping it fun and interesting. The Children in Care Council is driving the Pledge forward and ensuring they communicate with other children and young people in care through a newsletter. There is one member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the Children in Care Council but the activities are supported by other staff as required.

East Sussex

Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children's Services

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The Placement Support Team, which is part of the Fostering Service, facilitated a well-established user group of children in care, and this group was at the forefront of developing East Sussex Children in Care Council. Preparatory work with children in care, staff, and managers has taken place culminating in a Children in Care Council Conference on 5 July where young people had the opportunity to feed back to senior managers and the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families their expectation of a Children in Care Council, and how this will fit in with East Sussex's Pledge for children in care.

Significant progress has been made in East Sussex on the development of a draft Pledge. An extensive survey was initially undertaken with children in care aged 7 to 18 to ask what they felt being in care should be like and to identify their most important issues. Almost 50% of the questionnaires were completed and returned. The fostering service undertook a wide ranging piece of work to collate and review all participation work and feedback from the children in care.

At the beginning of September 08, 15 young people met to form the Children in Care Council and to begin to discuss some of their issues in more detail with the Heads of Service of Looked After Children. Combining all previous feedback from looked after children with the results of the questionnaires; key themes emerged that are incorporated into East Sussex draft Pledge.

The Children in Care Council took part in a two-day residential weekend at the beginning of October to discuss the terms of reference for the Children in Care Council and to comment on the draft Pledge.

The Children in Care Council in East Sussex has developed into a cohesive effective group. They meet monthly and are involved currently in a number of projects, for example the design of a web page and a leaflet of the Pledge. The Children in Care Council attend the Corporate parenting Panel to discuss issues directly with elected members.

The Children in Care Council have also requested the attendance of various senior managers to their meetings to discuss significant issues that affect children in care. For example the Virtual Head for Looked After Children after attending one of their meetings was able to take forward with social workers and schools the Children in Care Council wish that children and young people should not be called out of lessons to attend their Personal Education Planning meeting.

The Children in Care Council in East Sussex provides clear accountability of elected members and senior managers, and social workers to our children in care.

Gloucestershire

Chris Sands, Head of Individual Commissioning for Children and Young People
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Gloucestershire County Council has a Listening to Children's Reference Group which meets regularly with senior managers and elected members to discuss issues of concern to young people looked after and other issues which are likely to be of interest to our looked after young people. This group also invites other managers and representatives from organisations to join them to talk about specific service issues. The group receives feedback on what has happened as a result of their concerns through 'You Said...We Did', which is published in termly magazines

written by and for looked after young people. There is also a reference group for consulting young people about policies, and procedures. Members of both groups are involved in young people's interview panels for recruiting staff to senior manager posts and are also involved in tender evaluations for pre-qualifying services which offer provision for looked after children and young people (e.g. fostering). Both groups have worked with a media company and made DVDs about issues pertinent to children in care, e.g. bullying and loss.

In addition to the Listening to Children Reference Group, the Head teacher of our Virtual School has set up a School Council. The Virtual School Council was formed after receiving training from Schools Council UK in January 2007. It has elected a committee and chair and it meets at least three times a year. The purpose of the group is to give learners a voice about education. To date the School Council chair has been to London with the Head teacher to receive training on the on-line school council site available for all young people in care. The Council met and looked at our existing Personal Education Plan (PEP) format and gave an opinion about the redesigning of the format before it was re-launched in September. The Council has been instrumental in the design of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and has worked with the commissioned web designer to incorporate their ideas. The group is run by and for students and has young people in Years 6- 12 currently involved. The Virtual School staff facilitates the events.

Greenwich

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Greenwich are looking to set up a council during the next financial year with a view to advertising and appointing a new participation post.

Halton

Christine Taylor, Divisional Manager (Children in Care)
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Halton established its Children in Care Council approx 18 months ago and since that time it has developed into a body which attracts approx 25% of Children in Care of school age.

The meetings are run during the school holidays and are prefaced by an activity day looking at a specific issue. Recently, the children have looked at PEPs with the help of a drama group. They then presented their thoughts on PEPs to the officers and this was followed by a general council meeting. Another one looked at the Pledge and was based around an art day. The young people did a presentation to officers on what it was like to be in care and presented a visual/artistic version of what they wanted to see in the Pledge and this was again followed by the meeting. The mix of fun, activity and meeting seems to work and attendance has risen from 4-5 when we first started to 26 children at the last meeting.

The next session will focus on Children in Care Council Reviews.

Hartlepool

Jim Murdoch, Head of Business Unit (Young Persons)
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As with a significant number of authorities, there was a very active Participation Officer in post and a great deal of involvement of young people in considering the planning and delivery of services to children looked after. A number of young people have been part of the Corporate Parenting Forum since 2004, the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum since 2006, Youth Voices and the Youth Parliament group. This is in addition to one-off consultations on specific issues, e.g. the children's complaints system. There is also an active consultation group in the sub region in respect of CAMHS. One of the groups was nominated in the Children Now awards last year for their YP Smiles initiative. A panel of young people consider applications from staff and groups to determine how much involvement young people have had in the development of services/ task etc and then award 3 levels of award dependent on the degree of involvement.

The Children in Care Council has been worked into these existing forums. The young people who became involved felt that they wanted to rename it the Young Persons Council rather than give it a label that had possible negative connotations. They are working on a set of terms of reference and this includes its relationship to the other standing groups with a view to preventing repetition.

Hertfordshire

Nancy Burge, Participation Officer (Social Care)
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A small number of young people who have been involved in the work to date are keen to meet a group of 'core' Corporate Parents to:

- Share collated experiences about 'what it is like to be in care' and 'what is most important'.
- Present the Hertfordshire pledge.
- Present the key themes which will help shape the Care Matters Action Plan.

To make this process manageable and meaningful to the young people, membership of the 'core' Corporate Parenting group will be the members of the new HCTP Children Looked After Strategy Group. Members of this strategic group and the Children in Care "Council" will meet quarterly to monitor the pledge, agree key themes for further consideration and consultation.

The first meeting was planned to take place after the pledge has been presented to Children's Services Panel with subsequent meetings being held to monitor how things are progressing and enabling feedback to young people to take place on a quarterly basis. The meetings will be arranged by the Participation Team and will be facilitated by the Participation and Voice advocacy service.

The way CLA "Councils" are run will differ between authorities. Hertfordshire is using an evidence-informed model which builds on a number of projects run by CSF Participation in partnership with Voice advocacy service and with placement and provider services, Independent Reviewing Team, Independence Support Service and social care teams.

Islington

Sharon Goldman, Children's Active Involvement Service (CAIS) Manager

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The council was set up at the start of 2009 and has been meeting monthly.

The council was set up for ages 12-21 with places representing different age groups. Places have not yet all been filled, particularly at the younger end. Younger children are involved in the holidays and there was an event held about the London Pledge at half term. Sessional posts for 2 care leavers for the Chair and Deputy were created. The Chair post has been filled and it is hoped that the Deputy post will be filled shortly.

The Chair has a place on the Corporate Parenting Board.

Lancashire County Council

Suzy Cummings, County Participation Officer

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Lancashire County Councils' Children in Care Council is called the Young Peoples Panel and it has been running for some time now.

The Young Peoples Panel is run as a tri-monthly day event organised and supported by Children Looked After and Care Leavers who are employed by the council as Participation Assistants. All notes from this meeting are given to the chair of the Corporate Parenting Board. The Young Peoples Panel (YPP) looks at the agenda of the corporate parenting board but also creates its own agenda item based on what is happening for Children Looked After and Care Leavers across the county.

The complaints department, IRO manager and Children's Rights Service report to the YPP to report any issues or good practise which can then also be fed up to the board. Lancashire are aiming to have a Children Looked After group in each of the county social care localities run by Participation Assistants and residential homes are being asked to gain feed back from young people about the boards' agenda and their own issues through their community meetings.

Liverpool

Gill Thornton, Assistant Commissioning Manager

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Liverpool are in the process of setting up a Children in Care Council. Questionnaires have been sent out to Looked after Children seeking their views and opinions on the constitution and format of the Children in Care Council. An action plan has been created and a steering group has been set up which is chaired by an elected member with a core group of young people supporting to deliver the plan.

Manchester

Ciaran Rafferty, Service Lead for Corporate Parenting and Placements

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In order for young people's views to be heard, Manchester will be establishing Children in Care Council who will be the champions of children young people and care leavers in Manchester. Following consultation with the young person consultants they decided they would like the council to be named Care 2 Change Council (C2CC) This will help ensure that the voice of young people is at the

forefront of decision making and help quality assure Manchester's pledge for young people.

The C2CC will exist to support Manchester's children's and young people in the following ways:

- Improving outcomes for children in care and influencing the services they receive.
- To give young people a voice about issues that are important to them about the care that they receive
- To allow young people who are members of the council an open dialogue with the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member.
- For the young members of the council to be a voice for other children and young people in care.

The C2CC will achieve these aims by:

- Looking at the financial and practical resources of all parts of the council, and services it provides
- Quality assuring and monitoring Manchester's pledge to children in care.
- Ensuring careful research about the issues that will be addressed.
- Learning from good practice
- By carrying out the role as Child in Care council members with dedication, enthusiasm and commitment
- By cooperating with each other and communicate well
- By planning activities well and carrying out business in an open and honest way

Membership

Co Chairs: Director of Children's Services: Young person

Elected members: Lead Member for children and young people; Young person

Lead Member for children and young people.

Council Officers: Service Lead for Corporate Parenting and Placements; Principal Manager, Safeguarding; Deputy Principal Youth Office; Strategic lead for Education of Looked After Children

Partners and commissioned services: Young people in care and care leavers aged 13 years plus. (Supported by Children's Rights); Children's Rights Service; Barnardos Service Manager

Frequency and Format

- The CICC will meet up 4 – 6 times per year. Members of the council must show how they are improving outcomes for children and young people in care.
- The CICC will make recommendations to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the outcome of the meetings
- The Children in Care Council will report directly to the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- Elections will take place once a year
- Young people in care and care leavers, aged 13 years + can become council members but younger children should be informed. E.g. visit young people in children's homes to gather their views. There is some potential here to create a buddy system.
- Council members will be able to invite relevant service leads to address issues highlighted by the council that they want to be addressed (these service leads should be made aware and understand their responsibility to the Care 2 Change Council)

Middlesbrough

Sue Little, Children's Participation Officer
Sue_Little@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Middlesbrough are concentrating on developing their Pledge before setting up has not a Children in Care Council. There is a plan for a regional Children in Care Council event in the summer and Middlesbrough plan to be involved in this event.

Milton Keynes Children in Care Council

Hilary Bendle, Corporate Parenting Officer
Hilary.Bendle@Milton-keynes.gov.uk

Milton Keynes' Children in Care Council is called Today's children, Tomorrow's future or TCTF for short. The TCTF will meet 3-4 times per year. These meetings will include children from three different stakeholder groups (8 – 11 year old, 12 – 15 year old, Care Leavers group), councillors, director, group director and assistant director. Two or Three young people from the stakeholder group will attend the TCTF on a rotation basis and they are receiving support in understanding representing other children's views in the meeting and feeding back to different stakeholder groups.

Children have used their experiences of school councils to explain their thoughts about Children in Care Councils and how they would like them to run. For a few children it was very important that there should be a rotation of children attending Children in Care Councils instead of children being selected by peers or adults.

Work for 2009 will include the development of two consultation days to include children placed in external placements. The participation worker will meet with disabled children and children under 8 to ensure that their views are brought to the agenda. Consultation will also take place via the website.

North East Lincs

Alison Dear, Service Manager for Looked after Children and 16+ Services
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Young people have contributed to a young person's pledge document. In North East Lincolnshire there are a small number of Children in Care on a long-term basis. Attempts to establish a formalised council have not proven successful at present. A number of participation events to establish communication are actively looking at incorporating aspects of the council in other ways.

Oxfordshire

Sarah Lawrence and Alidja Templer, Joint-chairs of the Children In Care Council
sarahcicc@hotmail.com

(The following has been written by the joint chairs of the Oxfordshire Children in Care Council)

Our Children in Care Council started in October 2007, when we were invited to attend some training sessions, teaching us about children's rights, participation and

involvement and equipping us with the skills to run our own meetings. At the end of the 3 training sessions, the other young people voted myself and Alidja joint-chairs. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) decided to employ us to run the council, effectively making the Children in Care Council completely ours (the young peoples). We do, however, have weekly supervision with a social worker, and amazing support from all the council. We also have our own office.

We have Children in Care Council meetings with our main council of young people every 6-8 weeks and have a very enthusiastic and dedicated group. These are arranged to take place before and after the Corporate Parenting Panel meetings so we can feedback to the councillors and the heads of service for Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

The majority of our first year was spent consulting young people, professionals and carers to create a Pledge, from OCC to its young people. We then created a work plan, to ensure the Pledge was not just tokenistic, and to make sure we could keep track of who was doing what. To date, we are having great success with the work plan, and have a great involvement in many of the tasks and brilliant feedback from both professionals and young people. We are currently looking at more ways to consult a wider range of children and young people, and our Children in Care Council members have come up with some brilliant ideas.

A few examples of tasks we have made progress on from the work plan are:

- Develop induction groups for children coming into the care system that are run by the Source Workers (peer mentors for young people in care)
- To continue involvement of children and young people in the recruitment and training of foster carers - 4 young people have been trained to deliver the Preparation for Adult Life Training to carers, 1 young person has already co-facilitated a 2 day training session
- To revise leaving care information leaflets - 2 young people are receiving a £50 voucher to do this

We were also involved in the planning and running of the very successful Care Matters Conference last Takeover Day (7th November 2008), a joint conference between Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes, and are intending to take full control this year with the backing of OCC.

Plymouth

Jo Short, Participation Officer (Children's Services)

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Plymouth's groups have named themselves the 'Listen and Care' Council. They have been involved in drafting the pledge. They are currently in the process of making a film about the pledge with a local theatre company. Their work has meant that young people have more involvement in the recruitment of workers including all social work candidates are part of the rolling recruitment programme. They will shortly become involved in training for new Foster Carers. They have also been invited to speak at a national 'Children in Care' conference in London and they are having regular meetings with Councillors from the Corporate Parenting Board and Senior Officers from Children's Services.

Members of the council will receive reduced cost and free access to leisure opportunities in the city.

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Julie Kennewell, julie.kennewell@rbwm.gov.uk

The Children in Care Council is being developed through the Corporate Parenting Working Group. The Implementation of Care Matters is one of the strategic priorities of the council and this working group is taking forward all the initiatives proposed in the chapter on Corporate Parenting, including the development of the Children in Care Council (and the Pledge, Celebration of Achievements Event, development of Corporate Parenting Strategy etc).

In order to progress the development of the Children in Care Council, a series of consultation events were organised to ascertain what children in care and leaving care felt about their experiences. There were 3 groups set up:

1. A group of children in care age 4 -9. The Family Centre arranged a Saturday fun day when the children met each other and played together in different rooms, each set up with play materials and activities relating to each of the 5 ECM Outcomes. Their comments and insights were recorded. One of the key messages was that the children enjoyed meeting other children who also had a social worker
2. A group of children in care age 10 -16 met and had time together facilitated by Norden Farm (local theatre) and the Youth Service. Activities included a drama workshop, Big Brother diary room and a graffiti board. This group has just completed a DVD with some children in care talking about their views.
3. Care Leavers age 16 - 21 met for an evening of social activities, food and voted on the issues they felt were most important to them.

The key messages from these consultations were collected and published in a series of 3 booklets and will be used to develop the Pledge and Corporate Parenting Strategy. The children and young people who took part in the events and enjoyed them have become the core membership of the Children in Care Council and are now meeting on a regular basis (every school holiday). The younger ones meet separately from the teenagers.

Next Steps:

- To make sure the Children in Care Council is having regular direct meetings with the DCS and LM
- To develop a virtual Children in Care Council
- Involve our Children in Care Council in developing their own pages on the children and young peoples website in the Borough - known as WAMSTER
- Support the Children in Care Council for young people to make a Youth Opportunities Fund Bid to go on a Residential Trip to forge stronger links as a Children in Care Council and decide how the young people would like to develop it.
- Discussions with the 5 other Berkshire unitary authorities about developing a Berkshire wide Children in Care Council and possible Pledge.

Sefton

Karen Gray, Children's Participation Officer, Social Care
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VOICES THAT MATTER (Children in Care Council)

In October 2007 a new group was set up to help looked after children and young people to be encouraged and supported in having their voices heard. The group is open to any child or young person, age 8yrs +, who is looked after by Sefton Council. At the moment there are 20 children signed up as members of the council with meetings held 4 times a year. The aim of the group is to support looked after children in having a say about how services are delivered and developed. To date the group have influenced how consent is gained for activities for looked after children and have designed exercises which are used to train staff attending the 'Child Centred Practice' training course. The group is facilitated by 2 care leavers with support from the Children's Participation Officer for Social Care. Each meeting is attended by the Service Manager for Looked After Children who is able to ensure that the collective voice of the group is heard at a strategic level.

In addition a Care Leavers Forum has been established for young people age 15yrs plus who have, or are currently, looked after by Sefton Council. The forum meets on a monthly basis, is facilitated by the Children's Participation Officer for Social Care and is attended by the Service Manager for Looked After Children.

Sheffield

Dean Howson, Corporate Parenting Manager
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The Children in Care Council in Sheffield is known locally as ACE (About Care Experience) as chosen by young people. The ACE Council is developing clearer links with the Corporate Parenting Panel, made up of cross party elected members and Senior Managers from within the Children and Young People Directorate of the City Council.

The ACE Council works alongside the Looked After and Adopted Children Strategy Group that consists of public and voluntary sector agencies. Sheffield City Council has commissioned a local voluntary sector organisation, Chilypep (Children and Young Peoples Empowerment Project), to support and develop the Council.

The ACE Council is currently an interim one made up of self nominated, care experienced young people to help establish the groundwork. Early influences of the interim council include work they did on the SCC Pledge to all Looked After and Adopted children and care leavers.

The interim ACE Council are currently involved in developing the model of constituencies to the council for the general LAAC population and the routes by which to become a 'Councillor'. ACE is working closely with A National Voice to develop and deliver training for young people who are considering becoming council members.

There will be a 'yet to be decided' Council appointment process that will see the inauguration of the official ACE Council at an event to be held in the SCC Council Chamber. The recent democratic election process used to appoint Sheffield's first Youth Council had been considered as a potential model for the ACE Council. However, early feedback suggests that certain groups, i.e. children with disabilities or BME children may continue to be underrepresented if we adopt that model as

oppose to a service by service model. This, along with alternative models, is being discussed at the current time.

The ACE Council and members of Chilypep staff have and continue to attend the Participation and Consultation group, within Children's Specialist Services, to inform and develop this area of work. Current members of ACE are being linked to Regional Participation opportunities being developed by Government Office Yorkshire and Humber.

Slough Borough Council

Nikki McAuliffe, Participation Development Officer
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After distributing letters and flyers to all of Slough's Children in Care advertising the creation of the Children in Care Council, the Participation Team held a very successful introduction and training session for potential members during the February half term week.

To start the session off, the young people participated in a drama based 'getting to know you' activity. They were then engaged in a variety of creative activities in which art materials were used to facilitate a discussion about what a Children in Care Council is and what members would be responsible for. The young people used hand shaped templates and created a poster documenting the skills and qualities they felt that a member of the Children in Care Council should be able to bring to the role. The final exercise focussed on our Local Authority Pledge and involved the young people prioritising the promises that had been collected during a six month consultation period from Children and Young People both currently in and leaving care.

There are seven young people interested in joining the Children in Care Council.

Somerset

Matthew Turner, Policy and Performance Manager Children Looked After
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The Children in Care Council (known as Care Council) in Somerset is beginning to be developed. Invitations have been sent out to all children and young people in care aged 10+. There are currently 3 boys involved in the council and Somerset are contacting young people through IROs and other staff to ascertain further interest.

Southend

Trevor Willis, Team Manager Leaving Care
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The Children in Care Council (named "Voice 4 All") is attended by about 15 young people. The young people that attend come from a variety of backgrounds, some are in foster care, some living at home with their parents on care orders and some in independent living. The ages of the young people range from 14 to 18 years old and are have allocated workers from a variety of teams, including children and families, children with disabilities and leaving care. The Council is run in partnership with

the Connexions service. The meetings are held every month, however additional activities take place such as social events as well as attending regional events for children in care.

The meeting consists of a social element where members share a meal together and then a business section where the council members are able to discuss topics relevant to them as young people in care, but also young people living in Southend. The topics can range from issues relating to contact to bus times and travel costs.

The council is supported by Local Councillors, the portfolio holder for Children and Families as well as the Assistant Director and Heads of service who will all attend and listen to the points raised by the young people as well as feed back to them on the requests that they have made.

Within the council there is an elected chair, vice chair, treasurer and minute taker and the chair of Voice 4 All also has a seat on the children council within Southend.

Staffordshire

Gill Stanford, Commissioner for Children, Children & Lifelong Learning,
gill.stanford@staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire has an established, active, well attended Children in Care Council. The group is made up of 10 young people, aged 12 – 18 years from a wide range of care backgrounds and is inclusive of children with disabilities. Staff who help to facilitate the council range from area social workers, residential workers, family support workers, participation workers and support staff.

The Council have written their own constitution and so far have directly changed strategy and helped develop children in care 'Pledge', which will be delivered in a variety of mediums (USB stick, key rings etc). They have attended cabinet and have taken part in two 11 MILLION Takeover day events where they have taken over Staffordshire's Corporate Parenting Panel, leading to changes.

A younger Children in Care Council is in development and a 'virtual' council is almost complete, using the County Council's learning platform – to enable *all* children in care to access information and stay in touch. From April '09 they will have their own small budget, which they will control. The Commissioner for Children attends the beginning of every monthly meeting in order to feedback their issues to the Corporate Parenting Panel and vice versa.

Suffolk

Julia Kett, Vulnerable Children's Participation Manager
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In Suffolk the participation group for looked after young people and care leavers is called Brighter Futures. It runs in 3 areas across the county and with different age groups, and has been going for about 2 and half years. Brighter Futures is about getting young people together to ultimately have fun, but also to ask their views on the services that they receive.

The Brighter Futures groups were used to develop the Children in Care Council. The groups are made up of all ages, from 6 - 25 yrs old and include children and young people with a range of abilities. The children and young people decided that there

should be representatives from each group that would come together to form the Children in Care Council and that these young people would pass on the views of all the children and young people involved. Young people who were interested in taking on such a role have formed Suffolk's Children in Care Council, re-naming themselves 'Young Voices = Big Noise'. They gain the views of other children and young people in their area through the Brighter Futures groups and then take these forward to our Corporate Parenting Board.

Sunderland

John Arthurs, Development Manager (Looked After Children), Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit

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Sunderland has 400 children in care. There has been a consultation group of young people in Care since 1999. In 2008 this group developed and has been replaced by the Council which first formally met in September 2008. The young people resisted being called a 'Children in Care Council' due to the unfortunate habit of most people to abbreviate this to 'CICC' so they have adopted the name 'Change', with the strap line: 'Young people in care changing lives'. It is co-ordinated by the Young People's Officer.

The council has a budget of £5,000 to cover running costs, expenses, incentives, and a magazine (first issue in preparation)

'Change' meets monthly, has 18 members, including representatives from the monthly young people's meetings in the children's homes, and includes care leavers. The age range is 11 to 18 years. Representatives from 'Change' also attend the quarterly meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board of the council.

Surrey

Gabrielle O'Donovan, Children's Rights Manager, Safeguarding Children Unit

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A Care Council has been set up in Surrey by expanding a 16+ Youth Forum to younger ages. The contract for this work has been placed with the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) who provide advocacy and participation services for children and young people in care. The Care Council meets monthly and representatives from the Care Council meet senior managers and councillors every 2 - 3 months at the Corporate Parent Steering Group where they bring issues that are important to young people.

Young people from the Care Council are involved in staff recruitment and training (delivering the 'Total Respect' course), write some of the 'Wazzup' magazine for children in care, and join with other participation groups in Surrey to put forward young people's views.

Wakefield

Ian Walker

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Wakefield already has a very well-established representative group of young people called U'n'Us in which looked after young people and care leavers meet senior managers, elected members and dept heads such as housing, leisure services etc.

This meeting is devoted to operational changes e.g. policies and practices such as pocket money, leaving care support, access to leisure outlets etc.

The aim is to make the Children in Care Council much more of a strategic body looking at the longer term plans for improving the life chances of looked after children.

This process is just starting for Wakefield and a meeting has been convened for May to advertise the body to the looked after populace itself. From this point an election process will take place to select a representative council of young people. They will then meet with senior managers to agree the terms of reference of the group. The work undertaken with the young people is being undertaken by the independent advocacy service which is sourced out to Barnardos. The aim is for the Children in Care Council to be up and running by September 2009.

Warwickshire

Moses Reid, Children in Care Participation and Development Manager
mosesreid@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire Children in Care Council is made up of 9 - 10 young people, Director of Children Services, two elected members, and two officers of the Children in Need Division. It has been sitting as a Council since September 2008 and meets every 6 weeks. On the 20th April 2009 a formal Launch of the Pledge and the Children in Care Council at Shirehall, Warwickshire took place. Warwickshire are currently working on their website and exploring ways to ensure that the looked after population are able to access the council. Participation is the aspect that will be worked on over the coming months.

West Berks

Lorna Hunt
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(A young person's description of how West Berkshire's Children in Care Council operates)

R:vue is West Berkshire's Children in Care Council and is for young people aged between 10 and 19. We meet regularly to eat pizza whilst trying to make being in care enjoyable. We have regular discussions about problems faced in care and are busy making a pledge that the council will discuss with us and hopefully agree to.

We've been meeting since the beginning of November. At the end of January R:vue members made a presentation to the Corporate Parenting Panel introducing the pledge and personal views of our experiences in care. We did this by creating a CD of one young person singing, running a Question of Sport style quiz, doing an ice breaker (human knot), a 'This is Your Life' film, creating works of art, and we got the members discussing which statements they felt were most important for young people in care. We're currently focusing on developing as a group and bringing together the pledge that will hopefully make a difference to the lives of young people in care across West Berkshire.

West Sussex:

Susan Ellery
Susan.Ellery@westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex have a Children in Care Council Coordinator post managed within the Youth Service to provide some independence from Social Care and to ensure that looked after children are enabled to join mainstream activities and forums.

It is anticipated that the first Children in Care Council meeting will take place over the summer and hoped that the Council will take on the task of redesigning the West Sussex Awards Ceremony as an early activity. A Members Corporate Parenting Panel has recently formed and the Children in Care Council will be the mechanism for their interface with looked after children.

Worcestershire:

Lyn Speake, Corporate Parenting Engagement and Participation Worker
LSpeake@worcestershire.gov.uk

Worcestershire's Children in Care Council was launched on the 2nd April 2008 by Worcestershire's Chief Executive. The Council consists of seven young people aged 11 – 17. A competition was held to name the council and the looked after young people of Worcestershire chose 'Who Cares We Care'. The group meet every three weeks, the meetings are generally minuted and the minutes forwarded to the Corporate Parenting Board and the council also receive minutes from the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Pledge has been accepted by the CPB and a work plan compliments the Pledge. The Council has had representation on interview panels for the Director of Children's Services and the Educational Improvements Advisor (Worcestershire's Virtual Head)

Who Cares We Care have hosted a showcase evening that profiled the achievements, skills and talents of Looked After Young People aged 11 – 18 and are assisting in the planning of a spring picnic to consult with young people aged 3 – 12 years of age 19th April 2009. The next project is to consult with all young people, via a questionnaire, to establish the relevance and effectiveness of the Pledge.

Appendix 3

Update on Southwarks Children in Care Council (to be named Speakerbox Council)

The Children's Rights Officer and 3 Speaker box members attended a Conference in Sept 2009 in Birmingham on Children in Care Councils. We attach a summary of the different ways in which other councils throughout England are trying to set up councils. Councils are at different stages and some are like Southwark in that they already had an established group which is becoming their Children in Care Council.

We have held 3 consultation events in Sept and Dec 2009, bowling , Go karting and pizzas .Discussions and exercises took place on how to set up our council. 30(to get exact no) young people ages 8-21 attended and additionally we received 15 'silent members' comments by phone and written. Roles and expectations were discussed and 10 young people agreed to be on the Council and take up positions. It was decided that the name of the council would be Speaker Box council and this would be separate to the Speaker Box group that will continue to be open to anyone and meet for various activities etc.The Speaker Box Council will have an observer status on the Southwark Youth Council.

On Feb 9th there will be a meeting at Tooley Street of the Speaker Box Council to agree 'Terms of Reference' in young people friendly language – they might not even call it Terms of Reference ! Young People sitting on the Council have decided to call themselves 'Young Advisors ' and they will take on specialist roles to represent different care experiences eg

Children with Disabilities Advisor	(age 13 , in the Children's with Disabilities Team , will have his carer attend with him)
Adoption advisor	(age 12 , has experienced adoption)
5 Foster Care/Semi independent advisors	(ages 12-18)
Specialist Advisor/mentor for younger members & Treasurer 1	(age 22)
PR/Marketing Advisor and Treasurer 2	(age 20)
2 Young Advisors	(ages 18)
Co Chair	(age 15)
Chair	To be appointed
Speaker box Project Worker	Fariah Nanhoo

While it is not expected that loads of young people will attend regularly or want to be part of the council, the meetings will be kept to a maximum of 15 so there will usually be space for newcomers as observers who may want to join and become an Advisor.

We are planning to have a 2 day residential at Easter for team building and to train the advisors on chairing , agendas , meetings , decision making , negotiating skills, minute taking etc. The Council will meet 4 times a year plus twice with Corporate Parenting. For some meetings Chris Saunders and others would be invited to parts to discuss different areas.

Also at the Feb meeting the budget for the Council will be discussed. We anticipate requesting the following

Training Events including 1 Residential per annum	£3000
Catering for meetings and events	500
Travel Costs for Advisors	100
Allowances for attendance	1000
Admin, leaflets, tel etc expenses	400
Total	£5000

Speaker Box Group Activities – eg pizzas, outings, questionnaires and Speaker Box Magazine will have a separate budget . If the budget is agreed we have to agree procedures for signatures/approval of spending /accounts. We are discussing with Lewisham their arrangements for young people holding budgets.

We have still to be informed what support and resources would be available to us from the Southwark Corporate Team .

Caroline Essiet

Fariah Nanhoo

Jan 2010