

<b>Item No</b> 8	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> March 26 2008	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Policy to facilitate Children-in-Care being able to attend University and Higher Education	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Strategic Director of Children's Specialist Services	

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. To note and approve the strategy (Appendix 1) to support young people in care attending university.
2. To note Southwark's commitment to promote care leavers attending university and to provide advice and support (emotional and financial) during the period of their studies.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. Under leaving care legislation, Southwark has a legal duty to support young people after they leave care at the age of 18 in the employment, education and training until they reach the age of 21. This can be extended until the age of 24 if the young person is continuing further educational studies.
4. Each care leavers circumstances at 18 vary with regards to their education, employment and training aspirations. There is a complex range of support options, funding streams and accommodation arrangements which need to be considered given the location of the educational institution, the child's last placement and legal status.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

5. The strategy will need to provide a flexible system, which can meet the individual needs of all care leavers wishing to attend university or attend higher education.
6. The CLA services partnership with Southwark housing has been crucial in delivering an accommodation base for many young people wishing to attend university.
7. The government's revised system for course fees, grant applications and student loans has changed but continues to be a complex system which can prove confusing and act as a deterrent for care leavers.
8. The proposed strategy has included a significant piece of research work undertaken by Speakerbox to examine what other local authorities are able to provide and direct consultation with them as to how Southwark's strategy should be developed.

### **Policy implications**

9. The development of a clear strategy (Appendix 1) will assist the CLA Service in delivering (and promoting) this service more effectively.

### Community Impact Statement

10. It is recognised that care leavers engaged in further education are more likely to be able to access the world of work and contribute to the local economy and make a positive contribution to Southwark in their adult lives.

### Resource Implications

11. This strategy can continue to be delivered within the current resources allocated to the Adolescent and Aftercare Service.

### SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

#### Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services

12. No legal implications are arising from this report.

#### Finance Director

13. No comments sought

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	<b>Children Looked-After Services –</b> Strategy to support care leavers attend university

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Saunders	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	March 18 2008	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Director of Finance	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	March 18 2008	