

Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	7 April 2009
Subject:	Update on the development of the “Children in Care Council” in line with the London Pledge
Responsible Officer:	Corporate Director of Children’s Services - Paul Clark
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services - Councillor Christine Bednell
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary

FOR INFORMATION

- 1.1 This reports sets out to give an update in the progress made to develop a “Children in Care Council” which will support the Corporate Parenting Panel in their deliberations, in line with the London Pledge.

Section 2 – Report

- 2.1 “Young Voices” group which is a forum for Looked after children from the age of 11yrs to 18yrs, has been re-launched from November 2008.

- 2.2 The “Young Voices” group has been meeting regularly to consult, collate and plan.
- 2.3 The “Young Voices” has recently begun their training to develop themselves into a Children in Care Council. This is made up of a diverse group of children and young people looked after from; foster care, unaccompanied young people seeking asylum and Care leavers.
- 2.4 It has also linked into national programmes such as Foster Care Network and getting their input as well.
- 2.5 This group has recently been on a residential trip to “Woodrow High House” in Amersham, to be trained further in skills like;
- How to hold and attend meetings
 - How to communicate better.
 - How to make decisions.
- 2.6 This group will meet on an agreed date with the Corporate Parents to give a presentation of all their achievement so far.
- 2.7 It is proposed that the group will then draft a terms of reference together with the Corporate Parenting Panel. This will include lines of communication, and the status of the group.

Section 3 – Further Information

3.1 The progress of developing a “Children in Care Council” is for Panel to consider and to provide direction

Section 4 – Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report

Name: **Emma Stabler**

on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: **25 March 2009**

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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