

<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Parenting Panel
<b>Date:</b>	7 April 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Information Report – Progress on the implementation of the London Pledge for Children Looked After
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Corporate Director of Children’s Services - Paul Clark
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services - Councillor Christine Bednell
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

## **Section 1 – Summary**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

- 1.1. Implementation report on the London Pledge, which aims to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key services

## **Section 2 – Report**

**2.1** The London Pledge was signed off on behalf of the Local Authority at a London wide launch on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**2.2** The Life Chances Forum has taken on the responsibility for ensuring that the London Pledge is implemented at a Local Level. This has been on a number of levels.

**2.3** The Life Chances Forum has asked that the Virtual Children Looked After Virtual Team project manage the implementation with particular reference to:

- Producing a guide for staff as to how every relevant child looked after has his or her own pledge. This will inevitably require a framework as to when, how, and who will provide particular aspects of the pledge
- Identifying how the progress of each pledge can be tracked on Frameworki
- Considering any outstanding financial commitments
- Considering how the pledge may merge with the Care Leavers charter

**2.4** We have, by way of the Life Chances Forum, considered how we will meet the financial costs inherent in the pledge. The previous report to Corporate Parenting highlighted an approximation of the cost to implement the pledge and that a grant has been provided by way of Care Matters.

**2.5** The Life Chances Forum has agreed that the following costs, which were identified by the previous report to the Corporate Parenting Panel, will be financed by way of grants.

- The cost of ensuring that children looked after receive information about their rights and expectations of the Council, both in hard copy and online.
- Laptops for CLA will be covered by a successful bid for IT monies from the Department of Children, Schools and Families. A manager has been identified to manage this process.

**2.6** We are awaiting the outcome of the work undertaken by the CLA Virtual Team meeting to decide how we:

- Allocate free leisure passes
- Allocate bicycles and the criteria to use

**2.7** Officers will endeavor to meet the demands of the pledge and as already stated the Life Chances Forum will lead in mapping out what will be required.

**2.8** We take the view that the London Pledge should not be used as a tick box of what we provide to CLA. Rather, like our own children, the individual pledge will consider with each child/young person what he or she needs now, in the near future and in the distant future. The pledge will be reviewed at each Child Care Review with the expectation that it be amended with the changing circumstances of the child/young person.

### **Section 3 – Further Information**

3.1 This report is for Panel to consider and to provide direction

## **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

**4.1** This report is for information only. The next Life Changes Forum will review and firm up the items to be provided under the pledge and will identify the budgets available in 2009/10 to fund the pledge. The package of support will have to be contained within existing 2009/10 budgets. The Corporate Parenting Panel will be advised of the outcomes.

Name: <b>Emma Stabler</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: <b>26 March 2009</b>		

## **Section 5- Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

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