



Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Promoting the rights of the child and developing LAC capacity to be heard
Lead Officer:	Ana Beaumont
Date:	20 October 2009

1. In response to Haringey's commitment to ensuring children in care and other vulnerable children have a voice in decisions that affect them; are involved in shaping services and in doing so, improve outcomes for themselves, the following work is now underway.
2. Children's Rights becomes part of the provision within the Children & Young People's Service from October 2009. The contract with Action for Children ended in September 2009 as it was widely felt that this provision has been ineffective as an externally commissioned service. Posts will be sited within an established mainstream service that will enable the more effective development of this specialist work stream and ensure that the JAR objective *to develop the authority's capacity to promote the rights of the child and to listen to and address comments and complaints from children and young people* is met.
3. To support this work, we will recruit to the following posts:
 - 1.5 FTE Children's Rights Workers
 - 1 Children in Care Participation Worker
 - 1 Disabled Children's Participation Worker.

Until recruitment is completed interim arrangements have been made so that an advocacy and support service can continue to be provided.

4. The increased capacity created by these appointments will enable Haringey to carry out key projects and activities including:
 - developing contact, a voice and support for Haringey children not placed within the borough



Haringey Council

- establishing and supporting a council for children in care and creating a Haringey-specific pledge
- enabling children and young people in care to express their views with a range of decision makers and ensuring they are kept informed about decisions that affect them
- developing and embedding awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child amongst children and young people and across the Council
- ensuring that the views of children and young people with learning needs and disabilities are represented in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services
- the provision of specific activities and opportunities alongside support to vulnerable children and young people to be involved in mainstream activity

5. CWDC's (Children's Workforce Development Council) Youth Advisory Group

5.1 Following a tendering process that involved local authorities from across the UK, children and young people (aged 10-15) from Haringey* and four other local authorities have been selected to be part of the CWDC's Youth Advisory Group as '**Young Leaders of Change**'.

5.2 This group of children and young people will be supported by the CWDC over the next year to ensure they have all the necessary skills and opportunities to be part of the project. The views of the Young Leaders will feed directly into the CWDC board, influencing and guiding the organisation in how it involves children and young people in its work.

5.3 The Haringey group made up of four children and young people from Haringey aged 10-15. The group includes a child with learning needs and a child in care.

5.4 On Takeover Day (6 November) the Haringey group will travel to the CWDC headquarters in Leeds, where they will have an opportunity to meet the other groups involved in the project, find out about the CWDC and the work it does and to learn about the December residential.

5.5. To support the children and young people in this new role, they will receive training on team building, planning and communication as well as taking part in lots of fun activities and residential weekends.