



Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee
Title:	Assessment of Haringey's Progress with the London Pledge
Lead Officer:	Chris Chalmers
Date:	January 24 th 2011

1. Background:

1.1 The London Pledge has been adopted by Haringey Children's Trust. The Pledge was drawn up in 2008 to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key service and support where they live go to school or access employment or training opportunities in London. The London Pledge is a commitment from all Children's Trusts and their partners to all children and young people in care and leaving care. This pledge has been developed in partnership with young people, Lead Members for Children's Service and partners from the Community and Voluntary Sector. The main promises are outlined in the accompanying Corporate Parenting Strategy.

1.2 Haringey's progress regarding the pledge is detailed as follows:

	Pledge Principle/Promise	Evidence of Practice in Haringey December 2010 What do we do and how do children and young people see this?
Our tool to review how well we are meeting our promises		
1	We will only promise you things that we know we can do.	Promises that we make to young people are the foundation of our work to ensure positive outcomes for each and every young person in our care.
2	We will care for you as an individual person with your own specific needs which we will plan to meet.	All social care staff and partners seek to demonstrate through their work their respect for the culture, linguistic and religious needs. We provide specialist support to help those with additional needs. All health care plans are tailored to individual health needs.
3	You will have the opportunity to talk to your social worker alone every time he/she visits you.	It is an expectation that every social worker will have specific time alone with a child or young person at each LAC visit.
4	We will always involve you in the decisions we take for you and we will respect your right to make choices about your life.	Children will be involved in decisions about their care as appropriate to their age and abilities. Young people can actively contribute to their LAC review and have their views heard and acted upon.
5	We aim to be the best as parents and to make your experience of being looked after a positive one.	We ensure that every young person coming into care has a permanency plan, with a placement that suits the individual child and where possible rehabilitation to family.
6	We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.	We have a specialist LAC nurse team who ensure that the health reviews of all LAC children are completed within timescales and that any issues arising from the reviews are addressed. An outreach facility provides advice and guidance on sexual health and a specialist mental health service. All children and young people have a range of opportunities to improve their educational achievement. Haringey's Virtual School checks education provision is in place, tracks progress to ensure 'rapid and accelerated' progress is achieved following entry to care and that achievements are recognised and celebrated. Achieving educational outcomes, at and above the national average, whilst at school ensures opportunities are open to children post 16 and beyond. The LAC education service ensures that this provision is available to all and that achievements are celebrated.

		<p>Opportunities to make a positive contribution are provided through participation in decisions and engagement in events, inspections and surveys. Training provided for those leaving care on independent living</p>
7	<p>We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you.</p>	<p>Young people will agree their health care plans and can expect health actions agreed to be carried out. All children in care of statutory school age have an up to date PEP as part of their care plan. This states educational expectations and the school support mechanisms in place to support them.</p>
8	<p>We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.</p>	<p>Consultation and reviews. CIC Council</p>
9	<p>We will take account of your particular needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality.</p> <p>We will take account of anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it, including anyone treating you unfairly because you are in care.</p>	<p>We always give strong consideration to all of these factors in placements and on going work with children and young people.</p> <p>There is a clear complaints procedure and an independent advocacy service commissioned from Barnardos.</p>
10	<p>We will ensure that you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>	<p>Rights are adhered to through the court process and care proceedings. Rights of refugees and asylum seekers are also addressed by specialist workers.</p>
11	<p>We will also ensure that you receive your London Pledge entitlements, wherever you live. Any failure on the part of Councils and their Children's Trust partners to deliver this will be promptly resolved.</p>	<p>Six monthly reviews, chaired by independent reviewing officers check receipt of entitlement.</p>
	<p>We will support you to <u>Be Healthy</u></p>	<p>There is an established multi-agency forum to address the health, education and placement needs of LAC</p>

	Across London we will work together to ensure that you have access to a range of relevant health services which promote and support your emotional, physical and mental health and support you to make healthy and positive choices for your lives.	<p>children.</p> <p>Designated doctors, a team of nurses who see children and young people in local authority care in their placements when required.</p> <p>The health team is developing the involvement of children and young people. They carry out regular audits of the service they provide and aim to use the outcomes to improve.</p>
12	We will work to make sure that doctors, dentists and other health professionals are trained to understand your individual needs and listen to your problems so that they can give you the best possible support and treatment	The LAC nurses ensure that referrals are made for any health issues. Bounds Green Health Centre has been refurbished so that the doctor can provide health assessments in the same place as the nurses and the mental health service, providing a health service in one place with appropriately trained staff.
13	We will work with others to ensure that you get better access to the information you need and the right support to help you with any health or emotional difficulties that you may have, especially if you live outside your home authority.	Designated LAC doctors and nurses liaise across the country to ensure that the needs of LAC are met. The Tavistock Haringey Service offers therapeutic services for those young people who are placed within reach of Haringey.
14	We will ensure that we have good systems in place to share information across borough boundaries so that you do not miss out on medical appointments because you move areas.	Proper arrangements in place regarding transfer of health information between authorities.
15	Parents or carers will have access to information services and support that will help them to care for you and give them the skills they need to ensure that you have the best chances in life and are healthy and safe.	<p>Parents have access to all the children's medical information and can seek further advice where necessary.</p> <p>Training is provided for foster carers.</p> <p>A multi-agency group, (health, CiC education and children's services managers) meets regularly to address these outcomes.</p>
16	We will ensure that you receive vaccinations, dental checks and other health checks at the right time and that you and your carers are given the relevant information to support you in accessing	Standard provision provided by health team. Initial health assessment will check that children's immunisations are up to date.

	healthcare services.	
17	When appropriate we will ensure that you have access to the relevant sexual health information and support to enable you to make positive choices about your future.	Young people are signposted to young people services – through 4YP, LAC nurses, school nurse and local young people services.
18	We will make sure that you have opportunities to develop your personal and social skills to care for you health and well-being now and in the future.	The programme of preparation for leaving care is being redeveloped to ensure that care leavers are well prepared for independent living.
	<p>We will ensure that you can <u>Stay Safe</u>. We will work together across London to keep you safe from harm from individuals and your environment.</p> <p>We will ensure that you know how and where to access help if you feel you are being threatened or hurt in any way and we will ensure that professionals and carers know how to support those of you who have been harmed or hurt.</p> <p>We will not move you from a placement you are happy and settled in unless there is a good welfare reason for doing so.</p>	<p>We are using a range of initiatives to strengthen placement provision and to minimise placement moves. We gather as much information as possible about children’s individual needs and the type of placement which best suits these.</p> <p>The concerns of all children and young people are taken seriously. Concerns are acted upon and appropriate advocacy and therapeutic services provided.</p> <p>LSCB policies and protocol are in place. Training programmes for all agencies with a multi- disciplinary commitment to these. The LADO process is established to make sure any allegations against professional are fully investigated in order to keep children safe.</p>
19	All agencies will work to prevent you suffering harm and to promote your welfare, provide you with the services you require to address your needs and to safeguard those of you who are being or who are likely to be harmed.	
20	We will have clear arrangements and protocols in place to safeguard you if you run away or go missing from care. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed.	All agencies follow the London Procedure for Safeguarding Children Missing from Care and Home. This ensures a responsive approach to any such situation.

21	We will involve you in the selection of staff working with or for children and young people and the training of new social workers and foster carers.	Young people are trained to participate in recruitment at all levels of social care. Total Respect training provided for multi-agency professionals and councillors.
22	We will ensure that you get good information about your placement and a proper introduction to your carers (unless you have to move in an emergency). When you are moved to a new area you will receive information about the area and how to access services.	An outline of the provision will be given to each young person before placement. If there is a planned move a greater amount of information will be shared and there will be an opportunity to have introductions to the placement before moving in. The young person's social worker will visit in the first week to see how they are settling in and to help them resolve any issues which may arise.
23	We will ensure that you have access to youth support services and a Connexions adviser if you need it. Additional guidance relating to your personal health and safety is available.	Pathway plan formulated, agreed and followed from 15+. Connexions advisor based in leaving care service currently but this service will cease soon due to cutbacks. Other provision will then be in place with Connexions. Personal advisors team lead on training and employment issues.
24	If you get into trouble with the Police and end up in custody we will make sure that the most suitable person comes along to support you.	Where possible the service gives young people access to another professional who has a working relationship with the young person. In exceptional cases where a young person has taken themselves a great distance from their home area other representation may have to be used. Ongoing YOS support will be provided locally.
25	We will do our best to give you a choice in the selection of your own foster carer or placement.	Children and young people can say what they would like from a placement, needs and wishes are taken into account as much as possible and in considerable detail for more long term placements. Issues of ethnicity and religion are taken account of in both task centres and long term placements. If a child is very unhappy an alternative placement is sought after all other possibilities for improving the situation have been attempted. A move is a last option.
26	We will do our best to reduce the number of changes of social worker that you experience while you are in care.	The service is being restructured to ensure greater continuity regarding children's social workers. Wrap around Children in Care Team for all children in longer term care.
	We will support you to <u>Enjoy and Achieve</u> <u>Enjoy</u> - We will work	The following points relate to this outcome.

	<p>together to ensure that children in care have access to a broad range of positive activities and opportunities that provide them with places to go and things to do wherever they are.</p> <p>We will particularly work together across borough boundaries to ensure that access to good quality social, cultural and leisure activities feature strongly in placement arrangements.</p>	
27	<p>We will encourage and help you to access good quality affordable social, cultural and leisure activities, both in your community and across London.</p>	<p>Carers and residential units are involved in local sports activities. Primary swimming lessons are offered through education.. C&YP encouraged to attend local cultural activities that keep them in touch with their heritage communities.</p> <p>The South Africa trips with CiC education service have been a great success.</p>
28	<p>We will work to provide you with a free leisure card by 2011 to access facilities across London up to the age of 21. This may include free access to gyms, swimming pools and major cultural attractions.</p>	<p>Budget restrictions have unfortunately curtailed this type of provision.</p>
29	<p>We will support you to purchase a bike and safety equipment and we will organise proficiency training if it is something that you would like and your carers agree.</p>	<p>Many of our children in foster care have bikes. Proficiency training is accessed independently,</p>
	<p><u>Achieve</u> - We will work together across London to support you to achieve five A*-G at GCSE or equivalents.</p> <p>We will ensure that you have better access to personal computers and other materials that you may need for your education and that you are able to access the full range of educational opportunities open to your</p>	<p>Haringey Virtual School is part of the London Virtual school network, sharing ideas and improving cross London systems so that Children in Care are prioritised in the Admissions, effectively progressed through SEN systems and supported to avoid permanent exclusions wherever possible.</p> <p>Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest are starting a project with Tottenham Hotspur foundation to provide improved opportunities locally for young people post 16.</p> <p>Additional tuition is on offer to CiC up to Yr 11. Home delivery book scheme is having a positive impacting on children's reading.</p>

	<p>peers.</p> <p>We will pay particular attention to supporting you at key transition stages in your lives and ensure that you and your carers have access to high quality information, advice and guidance that supports you to make the right choices about your future.</p>	
30	<p>We will work with schools colleges and universities to ensure that you are championed to succeed in your education.</p> <p>In school you will have the support of your designated teacher and a governor champion and you will have a high quality, clear and up to date Personal Education Plan which will meet your needs and push you to succeed.</p>	<p>The Virtual School was established in April 2010, extending the oversight of the Children in Care Education team to young people in education post 16. A successful bid has secured funding to begin an innovative project across 4 London LAs to support young people who are over 16 and not in education.</p> <p>As part of the duty to promote educational achievement, the educational attainment of all young people in care is tracked. Young people who are underachieving are specifically focussed on to accept tuition, to attend Study Club, to have PEPs in place with additional school based support in place, to have SEN systems initiated.</p> <p>Gifted and Talented children are identified and targeted to extend their skills. The Aim Higher programme and links with Highgate Independent school are used to raise aspirations of potential university students.</p> <p>A comprehensive training programme for Designate Teacher's is in place. The majority of Haringey schools are using the London PEP and have had training on how to use the PEP process to promote the educational progress of CIC. Social worker's also attend training so they can fully understand the use of the PEP.</p>
31	<p>If you are leaving care for university or vocational training we will ensure that your Pathway Plan is clear about the support you will receive, including our financial contribution to your studies.</p>	<p>Growth in the number of young people attending university.</p> <p>Pathway plan in place for all 15+</p> <p>Payment structure to support training and education has been revised. £2000 bursary available for all young people attending university.</p>
32	<p>We will make sure that you have access to a computer and materials needed for your education and training. We</p>	<p>Foster homes all have access to computers. Residential homes also provide access. University students can choose to use part of their £2000 bursary to purchase a laptop if they wish. Some young people</p>

	aim to provide you with a laptop or computer at Key Stage 3 and beyond and appropriate software, providing you remain in education and training.	may decide to use their own savings to purchase a laptop when they move on to college.
33	Where appropriate we will support you to access vocational opportunities and/or apprenticeships that will enable you to fulfil your full potential.	PA's and Aftercare workers complete PPR's for all 18+ which include plans that address all support needs, action plans and aspirations. The post 16 work is emerging and we are planning on giving quite directive advice to foster carers and social workers and school DTs to support post -16 choices (by March 2010). More young people are achieving good Level 2 qualifications. This will enable more young people to become independent, self financing adults in the future.
	<p>We will empower you to Make a Positive Contribution.</p> <p>We will work together across London to ensure that your voice is heard and that you are able to participate fully in decision making about your own lives and the services that affect you.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity for your achievements to be recognised and celebrate your successes and contribute fully to the society in which you live.</p>	<p>Participation in London wide events. CWDC policy group and much more is on offer to young people in care.</p> <p>We take seriously what looked after children and young people themselves expect from us. All young people must be consulted about plans made for them. We use a variety of measures to consult with our young people in care about their experience of and views on being in care. These are detailed in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p> <p>Young people are now formally involved in reg 33 inspections of the borough's children's homes.</p>
34	We will consult you about all our services that affect you	We are striving to improve our consultation and will make increasing use of the CiC Council for this. Groups of older young people in care have been meeting regularly for years and give input into service development.
35	<p>We will make sure that you know your rights and what services you are entitled to by putting this down in writing for you.</p> <p>We will also agree with you what we expect from you and put it down in writing.</p>	Children and young people have a placement agreement. This is discussed with children and young people by the social worker at their regular meetings. Written expectations to be developed.

36	<p>We will organise meetings for children and young people who are looked after by a council in London so that we can hear from you about how you think we can best plan to meet your needs as a group and you can tell us whether we are keeping our promises.</p> <p>We will also make sure that those who are not part of meetings or a children in care council have their say.</p>	<p>CIC Council is becoming established. Methods of communicating with children in care are being developed as we want to ensure that they all know what is going on. This will include creating a website for LAC. Currently information for LAC can be found through the Haringey Youthspace website. A Stocktake event was held in June 2010 in order to gather the views of a range of young people in care.</p>
37	<p>We will celebrate and promote your achievements with you, as well as the contribution you make to the community. This will also include marking your birthday, religious festivals and making sure you have a copy of your school photo and reports.</p>	<p>Annual children in care awards at Tottenham Hotspurs. Theatre trips, Homework club. Foster carers receive an allowance to ensure that they have sufficient funds to celebrate birthdays & festivals. Those in semi-independent living receive birthday and festival allowances.</p>
38	<p>In cooperation with your parents or carers we will ensure that you have a passport or know why you don't have one.</p>	<p>This area is to be developed. However, we certainly want all LAC to have a passport as soon as possible after coming into care. We will help to obtain this and fund the cost.</p>
39	<p>Once you get to 16 years old we will ask you whether you want a mentor (e.g. 16+ worker) and arrange one for you if this will be helpful.</p>	<p>To be developed further.</p>
40	<p>We will also offer you the chance to set up and participate in a peer mentoring programme for London. This will involve care leavers supporting young people still in care to grow and achieve.</p>	<p>Care leavers have expressed interest in being involved in a peer mentoring programme. The 2008-09 programme is to be reviewed and reinstated.</p>
41	<p>In addition to your social worker, carer, family members, Independent reviewing officer and designated teacher, we will make sure that there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this</p>	<p>Barnardos Advocacy Service. Complaints process facilitates children and young people making their views known, Complaints have been analysed and key messages taken on board.</p> <p>A group of young people regularly meet with senior officers including the director to express their views.</p>

	<p>person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.</p> <p>We will also support you to contact your lead Councillor, Director of Children's Services and senior managers, as necessary and you will be listened to by them.</p>	<p>Care leavers met recently with the Council Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Handbook for CIC to be developed.</p>
42	<p>We will work with others to provide you with information about volunteering and access to opportunities to help others.</p>	<p>Volunteering discussed in the context of training and employment.</p> <p>Other opportunities are available through the Youth service</p>
	<p>We will equip you to achieve economic well-being. We will support you to achieve economic independence and well-being as you progress into adulthood. We recognise that you will need certain skills and support to live independently and we will take the relevant steps to prepare you effectively for independence and the world of employment</p>	<p>All the following points relate to this outcome.</p>
43	<p>We will open a savings account for you if you have been in care for more than 12 months and will make agreed payments into your account for you.</p> <p>You will have a say about how your money is managed and you will be able to start taking money out once you have reached the age of 18.</p>	<p>All CIC have their own saving account.</p>
44	<p>Where appropriate, we will support you to learn to drive where this will help you get into training and the right job.</p>	<p>The current fee matrix does include a section for contributing to driving lessons, however is discretionary (exceptional circumstances) and based on a course requirement and based on proposed job. (max of 10 lessons contribution)</p>
45	<p>When the time comes for you to leave care we will listen to you and act on your views about the services and support you need to help you become an independent adult</p>	<p>The support to care leavers is being reviewed. There is a quota of housing properties available to care leavers. Housing policy has been revised to place all care leavers in the highest priority band.</p>

	(including accommodation, further/higher education, training and employment).	Haringey is involved in developing a new tendering process for semi-independent accommodation for 16+. Young people are involved in the tender process.
46	We will ensure that when you leave school you will receive an offer of education, employment or training. This will include access to a careers advisor and an information and guidance session	Up until more recently all LAC were allocated to a PA or had access to connexions advisor based in LCAS. Now there is not 100% allocation but all currently have access to PA's on duty and the connexions advisor based in service (connexions availability ends Feb 2011). It is expected the s/w can act as y/p's PA and provide careers advice and complete the initial PP which includes plans for education, employment or training. All 18+ are allocated to a PA/Aftercare worker and there is a focused plan for education, employment and training options.
47	We will provide work experience opportunities and training or apprenticeships to help young people in and leaving care to develop their CV and find employment. This will include young people over the age of 18 and a range of different types of work experience and advice.	18+ PA's complete PPR's for all 18+ which incorporates opportunities for work experience, training and apprenticeships. Some young people have been given work placements in Haringey. (pre-pledge we had work placements at LCAS, Haringey also has an apprenticeship scheme. CV and interview technique workshops have been delivered by the service, and plans to increase such workshops in 2011 alongside partner agencies. 1-2-1 work is also delivered where required. Responsibilities for care leavers under 2008 Act being implemented in 2011.

2. Key Actions Arising From The Assessment:

2.1 The completion of this assessment has assisted in highlighting areas for further work, the process has also brought out strengths in existing work. Of prime importance are the continuing efforts to involve as many young people as possible in different elements of the participation agenda. Whilst all young people in care have individual opportunities to share their views it is intended that more imaginative ways of including them in other opportunities will be developed. The Children in Care Council is now up and running but we need to broaden the age bands of children who participate. Invites to children in younger age groups, as well as existing members, have been issued for the January 2011 meeting.

2.2 There is comprehensive work across Children in Care Education Service and LAC Health to meet the needs of young people and to engage them. An increasing emphasis is being placed on young people choosing the right pathways for further education be this university, vocational courses or employment. This will increase the outcomes for economic independence and well being.

2.3 One of the most pressing areas for action is the creation of web pages specifically for the use of LAC young people. There is now a range of information available through the Youthspace website which assists as an interim measure but further work will now be undertaken promptly to establish links that are solely for the use of children and young people in care.

3. Appendix: Report on Young & In Care Council's initial review of the London Pledge:

3.1 At the second meeting of members of the Young and in Care Council in November, 2010, the group looked at the London Pledge. The young people were asked to identify how they feel Haringey has done in these areas. The issues raised by young people have been shared with relevant members of the social care team.

3.2 The young people decided that to do full justice to the evaluation of the London Pledge that they needed to devote more time. This will be done during the spring term. In the interim they have asked that officers arrange for all those who are young and in care to receive more detailed information on youth centres, local leisure centres and other social engagement opportunities, as well as information on the London Pledge and the advocacy service. Officers are to circulate details to children in care about the youth space website, through which they can access this information.

3.3 The group consider the following pledges as essential to an open and honest working relationship with Haringey Children's Service and partners:

- We will only promise you things that we know we can do.
- We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you have stability in your life, to make a positive contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.
- We will listen to you as individuals and as a group and we want you to tell us when you meet us whether we are keeping our promises.
- In addition to your social worker, foster carer, family member, independent reviewing officer and designated teacher, we will make sure there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy about anything or have a complaint. We will let you know how to contact this person (an advocate) in writing and they will speak for you if you want them to.

We will also support you to contact your lead Councilor, Director of Children's Services and senior managers, as necessary and you will be listened to by them.