

Decision Maker: CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 4 March 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: CHILDREN IN CARE PLEDGE

Contact Officer: Kay Weiss, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Social Care
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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To set out the developments of the Bromley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.2 Members of the PDS committee are requested to:

- I. note the contents and comment upon the latest version of the Bromley Pledge to Children and Young People in Care; and,
- II. recommend that the Portfolio Holder endorses the Pledge.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): c280 LAC and
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes No Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The 2008 White Paper "Care Matters: Time to Deliver for Children in Care" required that every local authority set out a Pledge to children and young people in its care. Although not progressed to primary legislation, the statutory guidance which supports the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 references the White Paper and as such there is an expectation that a local authority will comply with the guidance unless they can demonstrate a good reason so not to do.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 28 November 2008, the Corporate Parenting Executive Sub Group considered and endorsed the Pan London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care and agreed to adopt a Bromley version of the pledge to meet the needs of local children in care
- 3.3 The key tasks to achieve this were to:
- Develop a 'Pledge' which covers the range of support, care, parenting and services that children in care can expect; and moving forward to; and,
 - Ensure the 'Pledge' is monitored and updated and that the views of Children and Young People continue to influence decisions about their care.
- 3.4 At the meeting of 7 December 2010, the Executive Working Party for Children's Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting considered an early draft of the Bromley Pledge and agreed it would be further developed through consultation with of the Children in Care Council (now LinCC) and members of the Executive Working Party.
- 3.5 At the meeting of the 12th July 2011, the Executive Working Party for Children's Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting endorsed the current version of the Bromley Pledge following consultation with young people
- 3.6 In August 2011 LinCC and other children in care made an animation film of the Bromley Pledge and helped to design a booklet with the full list of entitlements to be distributed to all children in care, care leavers and those new to care.
- 3.7 A full copy of the pledge and a copy of the animation film was distributed to all Councillors. In addition it was shown to staff at the staff forum on the 12 September 2011, and at the Looked After Children's Celebration of Achievement event later during the year. A copy of the Pledge DVD was sent to all looked after children and the DVD is included in the information packs given to newly looked after young people.
- 3.8 In April 2014, The Director of Education, Care and Health Services asked the members of LinCC to review and make recommendations to update and 'refresh' the pledge.
- 3.9 In April and May 2014, LinCC redrafted the Bromley Pledge, and made changes that they thought created a pledge that was realistic and deliverable. These changes were discussed with senior officers and, where appropriate, amended to reflect the comments made.
- 3.10 On the 23 September the Pledge was considered by the Education, Care and Health Services Portfolio Holder where some further minor changes were suggested and it was agreed that the Pledge would be presented to Members of the ECHS PDS committee for endorsement.
- 3.11 On the 25 September LinCC met with the Lead Member to apprise him of the work undertaken to refresh the Pledge.

- 3.12 The Pledge (and guiding principles used to help with the development of the pledge) are attached as appendix one.
- 3.13 It is proposed that once the Pledge has been approved it will be published on the LinCC website with a link provided to children and young people, Members, Officers and partner agencies. It is further proposed that the implementation and application of the Pledge will be monitored through the Corporate Parenting Officer group with an annual report being presented to the Executive Working Party for Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy implications Financial implications Legal implications Personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	