

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	09/02/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Participation Service – Children in Care Council (CiCC) updated Pledge	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	Outcome 1
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Clare Chamberlain, Interim Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Pat Dixon, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

### Summary

In November 2022 the Children in Care Council (CiCC) members were invited to a workshop to review and update the pledge, which was last updated in 2019. The workshop was also an opportunity for young people to meet with the new Virtual Headteacher, who helped facilitate the discussions around young people’s priorities. This report will identify how the young people have been consulted, and what they considered to be important to them regarding the pledge, with clarification as to how this will be taken forward in the future.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The first time the CiCC drafted their priorities for the pledge was in 2014. Since that time, the pledge has been reviewed once – in 2019. The pledge is based on what the young people see as being important to them, as a looked-after child and care leaver, cared for by the City of London. The pledge is what we make as the corporate parent in meeting their requests. Therefore, it was essential that the young people had an opportunity to discuss and raise issues that were significant to them: these were included within the pledge, alongside the response of the City of London to their request.

2. There have been considerable changes since the first pledge was drafted in 2014, both within the cohort of young people who are currently being cared for by the City of London and the wider community context in which the young people live. The young people have had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently the economic crisis, which has had an impact on them financially, especially as they try to navigate their way towards being independent. Therefore, it was important that every young person had an opportunity to contribute, and have their voice heard. So, rather than just reviewing the pledge, a workshop was arranged so that young people could have the opportunity to contribute their views on what they considered relevant to them at this time.

## **Current Position**

3. In November 2022, a workshop was held with the young people, (food and soft drinks were provided). Although there was initially a high response rate to attend, some young people were unable to come due to various reasons, so only four young people attended the workshop. The purpose of the pledge was explained, and discussions were generated about the issues that worried and concerned the young people. The workshop went well and those young people who did attend really engaged in the process and contributed in identifying some key areas that were important to them.
4. To ensure that all the young people had an opportunity to contribute, the information gathered was sent out to all the young people who were looked after or care leavers in the City of London, with the request for them to contribute if they wanted to add anything further. The Participation Officer offered support to those young people who needed assistance regarding interpreting and recording their views. This consultation took place over a two-week period. Once this had taken place and the feedback received, it was used to develop the pledge, with a “you asked” and “we promise” format.

## 5. **The CiCC Pledge**

**You asked** – “That if decisions are being made about me, you will let me know what they are and involve me.”

**We promise** – To let you know about decisions that involve you and keep you informed.

**You asked** – “Us to be there to support you in making decisions about your welfare.”

**We promise** – To be there to support and guide you in the decisions you make about your welfare.

**You asked** – “Take time to listen to me, write to me and reply to me.”

**We promise** – To listen to you and respond to you in whatever way you prefer.

**You asked** – “If you say you are going to do something, stick to it.”

**We promise** – That if we have agreed to do something for you, then we will make sure that we do what we say.

**You asked** – “Please don’t judge me without knowing me.”

**We promise** – Never to judge you; we will listen and help you without making any judgements about you, by respecting you, for who you are.

**You asked** – “To be supported as you moved towards independence, especially if you have problems getting furniture, appliances, or experience financial difficulties.”

**We promise** – To be there for you and give you the skills and support that you need to navigate through difficult and challenging times.

**You asked** – “For proper medical care and support in receiving appropriate dental care.”

**We promise** – To ensure that, when you come into our care, you will be registered with a doctor and dentist, so that your health and dental needs can be met.

**You asked** – “For us to gain permission from you when we shared information about you and let you know who has access to your information.”

**We promise** – To ask your consent before we share your information with other professionals, and inform you about who has access to your information.

**You asked** – “That we took time to find out what you’re interested in, giving opportunities to be involved in voluntary work and work experience.”

**We promise** – To explore with you the opportunities available in doing voluntary work and work experience as part of your journey towards independence.

**You asked** – “What kind of sport can I get involved with?”

**We promise** – To support you where possible in achieving your aims in any sporting activities that you may be interested in.

**You asked** – “Find me somewhere safe to live.”

**We promise** – To make sure that we find you a home where you will feel safe, by checking where you will be staying and listening to what you say.

**You asked** – “To have access to safe travel.”

**We promise** – To support you in accessing safe travel arrangements.

**You asked** – “That we support you in getting into good schools and colleges.”

**We promise** – To ensure that the schools and colleges that you attend will be able to offer you the best standard of education and care.

**You asked** – “To have the opportunity to do additional learning courses.”

**We promise** – That we will listen, advise, and support you with your learning needs.

**You asked** – “To have regular contact with the social workers, with a social worker attending the CiCC.”

**We promise** – To give you the opportunity to meet with a social worker at the CiCC meetings.

**You asked** – “That we be open and honest.”

**We promise** – That we will keep you informed about anything relating to your care, and be open and honest in how we talk to you.

6. The above draft of the pledge will be sent out to all the young people who are looked after or care leavers with the City of London by 12 January 2023, for their comments about the promises that have been made regarding our pledge. This consultation will take place over a two-week period, and any feedback received will be shared verbally with Members at the Safeguarding Sub-Committee.

### **Options**

7. N/A

### **Proposals**

8. N/A

### **Key Data**

9. N/A

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

10. Financial implications – N/A

11. Resource implications – N/A

12. Legal implications – N/A

13. Risk implications – N/A
14. Equalities implications – N/A
15. Climate implications – N/A
16. Security implications – N/A

## **Conclusion**

17. Once the pledge has been finalised, it will be formatted and translated into the various languages spoken by the young people. All the young people will receive a copy of the pledge, and any young person just coming into care will also receive a copy in their own language. The pledge will also be available on the City of London website.
18. The pledge will be reviewed annually by the CiCC, and through a consultation process with other young people who are looked after and care leavers. This consultation process will establish whether we are meeting our promise to the young people, and the impact that this has had on their care. It will also give the young people an opportunity to revise any areas, and change or add to the pledge so that it can remain current and pertinent to all the young people cared for by the City of London.

## **Appendices**

- None.

### **Pat Dixon**

Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service  
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1215

E: [pat.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:pat.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk)