

Spotlight
on practice

Rights & Voice



Havering London Borough Council
– Say It Louder CiCC

Pledge to hold professionals to account

July 2023

Say It Louder have focused efforts on holding their corporate parents and other professionals who support them to account – their scrutiny work has involved writing a pledge for their corporate parents – this now forms the agenda for the board meetings and young people scrutinise progress.

This is a practice example from A NATIONAL VOICE

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/for-professionals/co-production-and-participation-with-young-people/>

Why?

The ANV AMPLIFY awards aim to champion and recognise the work of children in care councils and care leaver forums. They were held in October 2022 ([Amplify - Coram Voice](#)) – Havering children in care council were nominated for the ‘Participation award’. [ANV Awards Nomination - Say It Louder - YouTube](#)

What did they do?

Young people worked together & wrote a ‘pledge’ based on their experiences – it is a list of promises to children in care to make sure Havering is a good corporate parent.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/358483848/>

The pledge covers the areas young people thought were most important, making sure the council:

- Listen to you
- Look after you & treat you well
- Help you achieve your full potential in education
- Help you to keep healthy & well.

The work was praised by the young people judges: *“This nomination is a really awesome idea. It is really great to hear the concept of holding staff and professionals to account and doing so through a pledge...this is a brilliant idea that all authorities should be on board with!”*.

What difference is it making?

The pledge is how children and young people can hold the council to account – the content of it forms the agenda for the corporate parenting panel & young people attend and ask for progress updates / scrutinise what work has (and has not) been done. Professionals reflected that the work *“really do make adults think, they do really make us actually do what we say ‘on the tin’”*.



Extracts
from
Havering
pledge
written by
the CICC

2 We will look after you and treat you well



We will help and support you to sort out any problems or worries you may have. We will ensure you have a supportive and caring home and will respect you as individuals.

- We will make sure you live in a safe place, where you are well looked after and is suitable for your needs. We will check on the quality of care you receive.
- We will support you to keep in touch with friends and family, and other people who are important to you, where this is possible – if this can't happen we will explain in detail the reason why.
- We will only move you from your home or placement if it is absolutely necessary, or if it is deemed to be in your best interests. If you do need to move, we will ensure we explain clearly the reason for this.
- We will do our best to make sure your Social Worker doesn't change, unless there is a good reason for it, and that your Social Worker stays in touch and visits you regularly to see how you are.
- We will respect your property; we will never move your things without consent, or in bin bags
- Your Social Worker and other people working with you, will not wear their ID badges when meeting you (unless they have to), if you don't want them to.
- We will not do anything that will make you stand out as a child in care, this means we won't tell people who do not need to know, or take you out of lessons. Instead we will make sure we know who you are happy telling about your situation.
- We will make sure that when you prepare to move to the 'Leaving Care Team' at 16 years old, or leave our care, there is a suitable plan in place. We will make sure you understand what is going to happen when you become of leaving care age and that you are involved in any decisions or plans.
- Provide you with the support you need when you leave care to become independent and be the best you can be in adult life. This includes learning to manage money, paying bills, learning to cook, preparation for work and taking care of yourself.

3 We will help you achieve your full potential in Education



We will provide you with the support to do well in education and help you to grow in confidence, be proud of yourself and make positive choices.

- We will support you and your carers to make sure that you attend school regularly and listen to your views about school life.
- We will work with your school and designated teacher to help you do your best by having a Personal Education Plan (PEP). We will ensure this is reviewed every term and will make sure that your thoughts and feelings are recorded at these meetings and that you are offered help expressing these, especially if you have a disability or find it hard to speak up.
- We will keep you safe in school, and make sure that you feel safe.
- We will help you to join in with activities and opportunities inside and outside of school and within your community.
- We will celebrate your achievements and progress, and share stories of the good things you have done.
- We will work with your school to ensure you are not called out of class to attend meetings about your care, if this is what you prefer, and to ensure your private business about being in care is not shared with others that do not need to know.
- We will support you whilst you are in further education and training, including College and University, and will help you plan for the future. We will work together when completing your Pathway Plan, to ensure that it is a plan that will work for you.
- We will ensure the right support is in place when you transition between Primary and Secondary School and between secondary school and College/ Sixth Form/Training, as well as the transition into University.