

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 8 November 2016	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Innovation Bid: Care Leavers	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director, Children and Families	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the Innovation Bid and considers any advice and support it may offer.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In October 2013 the Department for Education (DfE) launched the Social Care Innovation Fund and associated Programme to act as a catalyst for developing more effective ways of supporting vulnerable children. The programme was seeking to inspire whole system change so that in five years' time we achieve:
  - Better life chances for children receiving help from the social care system
  - Stronger incentives and mechanisms for innovation, experimentation and replication of successful new approaches and
  - Better value for money across children's social care.
3. On 9 February 2016 the council's cabinet agreed the Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy 2016-19. The first priority of this is "children and young people have a say and their voice is heard".
4. On 7 July Catch 22, in partnership with Southwark submitted a bid to transform its service to care leavers to significantly improve outcomes for them. There were over 300 such applications. The Catch 22/Southwark application has reached the final stage with around 20 others. A final submission will be made by 3 November 2016 and following an expert panel process, we expect a final decision about funding to be made by the end of December 2016.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Catch 22 is a national charity with expertise in care leavers, innovation and and challenging social issues around young people. It runs the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum, successful innovation projects around children in need and young people at risk of sexual exploitation as well as having recently published a study on youth violence and book on the future of children's services.
6. Southwark has recently made changes to how its care service is organised to dedicate practice groups to care leavers and late entrants to care (16+). This was the first stage in a process to develop better outcomes with more dedicated focus on this group.

7. Catch22 and Southwark want to create a new way of working, co designing an innovative model of service delivery for young people in and leaving care. Combining our respective experience as providers, innovators, and commissioners, we hope to design a ground breaking new delivery vehicle (NDV – Care Leavers Partnership/Trust) that allows more flexible, creative and inclusive ways of working with young people to achieve improved outcomes.
8. The NDV would be a separate vehicle, owned and run by Catch22 and Southwark. It will allow the freedom to design and implement a flexible and responsive service based on the operational principles of being more relational, unlocking capacity and ensuring local accountability. Young people will be involved both in co-designing the service as well as in the NDV itself; this is a key innovation of the model.
9. The aim is to improve the poor outcomes of children and young people in and leaving care. It is known that they are disproportionately likely to end up in custody, be NEET and have unmet mental health needs. It is recognised that a step change is needed to improve outcomes. In addition to the negative life long impact for many care leavers, there are significant cost implications for Southwark who end up footing the bill as a consequence of these failings at a later date.
10. Service design is usually highly specified, based on traditional delivery models that have not evolved to meet the needs of today's young people. At the same time service users are not given the opportunity to say what they need. There are currently too many transitions, based on specified role rather than who is best placed to meet need, preventing relational continuity.
11. Co-designing a leaving care service as a joint venture owned by young people, Catch22 and Southwark Council and extending the age range to work with older young people in care based on need and who is best placed to provide support, will impact on the priorities of rethinking social care and transitions to adulthood providing the opportunity for significant impact.
12. At this stage we cannot predict what will emerge from the co-design process. Based on initial invitation with young people, share experience and workshop discussions we expect to establish:
  - A flexible, personalised and responsive service (not 9 to 5)
  - Young people's lead social enterprise
  - Innovative solutions to NEET and poor housing e.g. building on Catch 22 peer landlord scheme and care to work models
  - Creative use of volunteers using models developed by catch 22 including job coaches trades people and peer support to develop resilience
  - Intensive fostering to support the most vulnerable in our children
  - Improved health provision and links to CAMHS
  - Use of social media and apps.
13. The plan is to deliver a range of measurable improved outcomes for care leavers based on being and stay safe, having some good and secure to live, something positive to do and being able to do it. This includes getting more people to work, reducing offending and reoffending, cutting the spring and an improved health and well-being. The negative outcomes of caring currently costs, both immediately and in the medium and longer term, both young people

personally and the council financially and in relation to the fairer future it wishes for its residents.

### Community impact statement

14. This projects will impact positively on all communities where the young people live enabling them to be able to remain within those communities and be a more positive constructive part of them.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alisdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
<b>Report Author</b>	Alisdair Smith, Director, Children and Families	
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<b>Dated</b>	26 October 2016	
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<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
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