

Making the Care Council's Pledge Measurable

Progress Report June 2010

Young people want:	Hampshire County Council will:	Progress against commitments:
<p>Extra tuition</p> <p>Extra support at school means you should get better results = better job opportunities.</p> <p>We would like better PE equipment and laptops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that there is a teacher in each school who understands the needs of looked after young people and who can actively support you – called a 'designated teacher' • Give £1500 a year to your school (if you go to school in Hampshire) and work with them to decide how the money is best spent to meet your educational needs – it could be used for extra support, or to provide you with a laptop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is now statutory for all schools to have a Designated Teacher (DT) and an up to date register is in place. About 300 DT's have attended training around 'identifying the needs of a child in care'. These courses are continuing in the summer term for DTs who have not accessed them. There is also training in transition, including attachment issues and a project for Y6 and Y7 teachers where they work alongside the social worker to create a good transition to secondary school. DT networks will be in place from September in each area to enable ongoing training and support. It is the role of the DT to ensure that the needs of a Child in Care are being met. They are the advocate for the child in the school. It is also their responsibility to produce a report for the Governors annually. The report has to contain a wide range of information, including the attainment of all CiC in the school. It is therefore the DTs role to monitor the progress of these children and inform/work with the leadership team if they are not making progress. • The DSG funding enables schools to receive an additional £500 a term for CiC. This money is designed to be used to ensure that the child/young person attends school and that they reach their potential academically. The PEP should inform this process, as through this meeting barriers are identified and the money can be used to support the interventions selected to overcome these barriers. A monitoring exercise is due to start this term where the use of the money will be analysed to ensure that it is

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to £500 Personal Education Allowance to social workers(if you go to school outside of Hampshire) who will use this to fund extra support at school or activities to do outside of school • Work towards you having Broadband in your young people's home or foster placement so you can use MSN and 'YouTube' properly • Employ six new Educational Welfare Officers, who will be in the new Children in Care social work teams 	<p>always used in the best interest of the child/young person it is claimed for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 70 applications received so far each year for a wide range of activities. Further funding available for the next year as part of the Care Matters Grant. Social workers very actively encouraged to apply to support the Personal Education Plan for the child. • Hampshire was successful in a grant to the DCSF where we received £656,000 to fund 820 laptops, printers and mobile broadband for children in care and careleavers aged 8 upwards. These have now been distributed. • All staff have been recruited and are in post and improvements in children's attendance at school is evident.

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	<p>and who provide extra support to help you to attend and achieve at school</p>	
<p>Individual budget</p> <p>Helps us to learn about budgeting.</p> <p>And we could save money.</p> <p>Doing fun activities will keep us safe and out of trouble!</p> <p>Better access to leisure activities helps us to enjoy and achieve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give your social worker £500 a year to spend on you (if you go to a school that is not in Hampshire). You will agree with them how it is spent – it could be spent on things like activities and sports equipment • Make sure, if you live in foster or residential care, that we decide quickly about any requests for money that you or your carers make, so that you do not lose out on things like school trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 70 applications received so far for a wide range of activities. Further funding available for the next year through the Care Matters Grant. Social workers are very actively encouraged to apply. Money from the DSG is also available, though it is more targeted at educational outcomes. • This is available through the allowances structure to foster carers does cover most of this. However delays do sometimes occur. This was particularly the case when the older young people transferred from the careleavers teams to the cic and youth teams, however this early issue have now been overcome.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards you having free or reduced rate access to sports and leisure centres and other leisure opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,000 Care Matters money was allocated to setting up this scheme. Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs is leading this work. The 'Culture-All' Passport has been extended to all Hampshire Foster Carers and residential staff which gives them free access and parking to a variety of parks, gardens and museums as well as the Science Centre, Intech. Free access to Leisure Centres is still being worked on with each District Council. Though free access has been gained for all children in care to Marwell Zoo. • Two pilot projects have also been successful, run by the Youth Service in Eastleigh and the New Forest and they are looking to extend the geographical reach of the project. This culminated in ten children participating on a barge holiday at the end of last year. • Hampshire Music Service provide free music tuition for children in care as well as offer free tickets for a variety of musical events around the county for children in care, their foster carers and wider family. • Two further pilot projects have run in Havant and Aldershot looking to provide children in care with the opportunities to participate in activities run in their local theatre, as well as free or reduced tickets for professional events. • For the first time this year children in care performed as a group in the Youth Division of Rock Challenge – it is hoped that this can continue next year with further support from local schools who have considerable

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		<p>experience in these events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wessex 'momentum' project was the second dance event hosted by HCC and Dance United to support young offenders and children in care through dance. Though not for everyone, this powerful programme sees participants train every day for three weeks in new methods of dance, supported by professional dance artists to eventually perform to an audience. This year the group performed to approx 200 people with a 20 minute routine showing skill, control and grace. It is hoped that later this year a permanent dance academy can be established.
<p>Care council</p> <p>It is good to meet up with people who are in care.</p> <p>You can say your views</p> <p>And give ideas and suggestions about things to change.</p> <p>You get to talk about your feelings.</p> <p>When you are at</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure that the Care Council can meet every month Provide transport from wherever you live in Hampshire so that as many of you can come as possible Develop a Care Council website and chat forum so you can keep in touch with each other and have your 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally a joint workshop with the Care Council, Corporate Parents and officers took place where Care Council members presented their pledge banner and a discussion that took place on the six key issues raised by the young people resulting in a document which helped us to make the Pledge more measurable. The Care Council did start to meet regularly to discuss progress against the Pledge commitments but attendance started to diminish and it eventually became a small group of children who did not properly represent the rest of the cic population. A county the size of Hampshire always presents geographical challenges and getting a large number of children and young people together regularly was proving to be costly and not an effective way to meaningfully engage. <p>Five care ambassadors have now been recruited who are all careleavers.</p>

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<p>the meetings you are safe.</p> <p>It is something to look forward to and feel included in Care Council.</p>	<p>say - even if you live outside Hampshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support you to make a Youth Opportunities Fund bid, so you can do more Care Council activities 	<p>They will provide the 'executive' of the care council and ensure that the views of other children and young people in care are sought and are more meaningfully engaged in order to properly influence service developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The laptop project has provided an opportunity to use a different means of communicating with our children and young people in care. This is being further developed and it is hoped that we can look at the Care Ambassadors having their own website and blog which will be a medium to seek the wider views of the care population.
<p>Consistent adult</p> <p>Having a friend or supporter who knows us well and who we feel comfortable with.</p> <p>Someone who looks out for our needs.</p> <p>A social / key / youth worker, family, teacher or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Children in Care social work teams. This means that you should have a social worker who understands about the care system and who will support you into adulthood without having to change social workers when you become 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in care teams have now been set up across the county which has been successful in reducing the number of changes of social worker. Local action in response to the national social work task force is focussing on retention and stability of social workers as well as providing an alternative career path for social workers which means that they can stay in the front line and not have to progress to management for extra responsibility and pay recognition. <p>Hampshire County Council provides both advocates and Independent Visitors (IVs) for Children in Care. Advocates support young people to voice their views at meetings in order to influence the decisions which affect them. IVs support children and young people for the longer term, often when they have no contact with their own families so that they have the support of an adult outside of the care system who they can turn to. This will be subject to an external contract from 2011 to ensure that we</p>

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doctor.		comply to statutory requirements of complete independence from the Local Authority.
<p>Peer mentors</p> <p>Having great role models.</p> <p>People to talk to who know what it is like in care.</p> <p>Building friendship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide Summer School opportunities with the University of Winchester • Expand the Advocacy scheme for young people in care and the Winchester University / Aim Higher Buddies Scheme so you can meet with adults other than those who care for you • Encourage care leavers to share their experiences with you – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dreamwall programme provides four weekend residential experiences for our children in care who are at risk of placement breakdown. These activities provide them with an opportunity to meet other young people as well as to aspire to become a junior leader where they can support the wider leadership of the group and gain accreditation for the work they do. • The recruitment of the five Care Ambassadors provides the opportunity for young people to become involved with other young people who have had similar experiences. All of the CAs are good role models and provide the forum for children and young people to meet and establish friendships based on common experiences.

Young people want:	Hampshire County Council will:	Progress against commitments:
	face to face and via the Care Council website	
<p>Better placement choice</p> <p>Choice to stay in care until we feel ready to leave.</p> <p>Stay with family until we are old enough.</p> <p>Feel like a bus getting on and off each time.</p> <p>Get more information in advance about new family & location.</p> <p>Will help us to enjoy and achieve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support you to stay in residential or foster care until you are eighteen, if that is what you want or need • Teach you the skills that you will need when you do leave care • Support you through college or into your first job • Make sure that you have as few moves as possible • Recruit more foster carers who want to work with children and young people • Give you information about carers before 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment strategy for foster carers has been successful and shown increases in the numbers of carers available 2008 - 307 County carers 2009 - 339 County carers 2010 - 362 County carers However, this still is not giving us the Placement Choice that we would like because the numbers of Looked After children have grown 2008 -1023 2009 -1084 2010 – 1118 • To support this under the Sufficiency duty we are scoping all the placement services and costs, examining the data so that we can predict better the demand and types of placements we need, then we will be exercising better market management and commissioning to ensure sufficiency where practicable. Despite this there is an acknowledgement that we need to improve our placement choice for children and in turn reduce the number of placements they have, thus making their lives more stable. • The recruitment of foster carers remains a priority and the strategy includes the wider use of IT, DVDs as well as literature produced from our young people containing ideas about ‘makes a good foster parent .’

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	you go to live with them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster carers profiles have been prepared for all new carers and are being developed for our existing pool of carers. This gives children and young people information about the family they are going to be living with before they arrive.