

<b>1</b>	
<b>Request</b>	<b>Setting Up Home Allowance (Leaving care grant) of at least £2,000</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o LAs should agree the exact level of the grant at least once a year with their CIC council.</li> <li>o To be reviewed in line with general cost of living increases.</li> <li>o It should not be used for things which LAs already have a responsibility to provide e.g. deposit for flat.</li> <li>o LAs should not simply buy things with this grant on young people's behalf.</li> </ul>
<b>When did you ask your local authority for this? (date / occasion e.g. meeting with Corporate Parenting Board)</b>	<p>Will do so at next corporate parenting board meeting in July.</p> <p>Change Council agreed this should be taken forward Because:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ They feel this is important when setting up home for the first time</li> <li>√ the price of living has gone up, so you should get more money</li> <li>√ If other local authorities pay more to their young people then Sunderland young people should get more</li> <li>√ We can't get anything with the money we get at the minute</li> </ul>
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with there answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council name.....</p> <p>Date ...May 2011.....</p>

Things to ask your local authority for...

**2**

<b>Request</b>	<b>CIC council training of councillors as standard</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To improve awareness of what it's like to be in care and what is important to looked after children etc.</li><li>• For all councillors, not just Lead Members for Children's Services.</li></ul>
<b>When did you ask your local authority for this?</b>	<p><b>Change council don't think is a priority</b></p> <p><b>They already do deliver training to staff &amp; Councillors, although is was acknowledged that this could happen more often</b></p> <p><b>Change council felt Sunderland is ahead of the game</b></p>
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	Signature: <b>Sunderland Change Council.</b> Name..... Date ... <b>May 2011</b>

**3**

<b>Request</b>	<b>Free access to council leisure services</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a straightforward system e.g. universal membership card.</li> <li>• Local authorities should also help with transport, as this can be a barrier for some young people</li> <li>• Need to make sure looked after children in out of authority placements have the same access to leisure.</li> </ul>
<b>When did you ask your local authority for this?</b>	<p>Will do so at next corporate parenting board meeting in July</p> <p>Change thought this is important because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∨ Gives you something to do &amp; would stop you getting bored</li> <li>∨ Would stop people drinking and getting into trouble</li> <li>∨ Should have a membership card</li> <li>∨ Cant afford to go and exercise</li> <li>∨ Would hit leisure service target for getting young people using their service</li> </ul>
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...<b>Sunderland Change Council</b></p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Date .....<b>May 2011</b></p>

**4**

<b>Request</b>	<b>Standard information pack / list of entitlements that children should be given when entering care for the first time</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include something on the court process, which is often when children feel most confused and isolated</li> <li>• Wording and format to be approved by CIC councils and IROs</li> <li>• Explain who's who (e.g. health visitors, IRO etc.) and other jargon ('long' vs. 'short term' care)</li> <li>• Include pledge</li> <li>• Can be helpful if participation team visit new children in care</li> </ul>
<b>When did you ask your local authority for this?</b>	<p><b>Change council don't think is a priority; because children &amp; young people in Sunderland already receive a good information pack which Change council members helped to design</b></p> <p><b>However:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>The Pledge is quite new, so someone needed to make sure a copy was inserted into the 'welcome' pack</b></li> <li>2) <b>it would be good if new children &amp; young people coming into care got a visit from someone to explain things</b></li> </ol>
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...<a href="#">Sunderland Change Council</a></p> <p>name.....</p> <p>Date .....<a href="#">May 2011</a>.....</p>

**5**

<b>Request</b>	<b>Involve children in checking and monitoring the council's services for looked after children.</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve children in reviews of services e.g. housing services, leaving care services, virtual school, health.</li> </ul>
<b>When did you ask your local authority for this?</b>	<p><b>Will do so at next corporate parenting board meeting in July</b></p> <p>Change council thought this was important , but not a high priority – also they do monitor in some ways Thought should be given to how this could happen more:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∇ Participation of young people is important &amp; valuable</li> <li>∇ More meeting to include C&amp;YP</li> <li>∇ Need to make sure C&amp;YP are properly listened to – especially in relation to housing</li> <li>∇ Involvement in CSLT meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council</p> <p>name.....</p> <p>Date .....May 2011.....</p>

**Ways to improve your Children in care council with the help of you Local Authority and Participation Officers...**

<b>1</b>	
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Meet DCS and Lead Member monthly, not just Assistant Directors / other councillors.</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These meetings should lead to action plans, then feedback and explanations about what has changed as a consequence of issues that CICC raise.</li> <li>○ Good intentions and warm words are not enough.</li> <li>○ The CICC should also have the ability to invite anyone from the Local Authority they want to speak to</li> </ul>
<b>Were you already doing this?</b>	<p>Change Council already meet regularly with the Head of Safeguarding &amp; Lead Member for Children; members of Change Council are members of Corporate Parenting board – <b>will raise at CPB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∇ Whilst Change felt it was important to meet the Executive Director they thought once a month was too often and agreed on once every 4 months</li> <li>∇ It is really important that we get our points of view over to Top people</li> <li>∇ Face to face is important</li> <li>∇ Exec Director should come to our meetings</li> </ul>
<b>If not, when did you ask your local authority to make this change? (date and occasion e.g. meeting with Corporate Parenting Board, 15 January 2011)</b>	
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will they start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be doing something else instead?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council name.....</p> <p>Date .....May 2011.....</p>

**2**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Hold surveys / meetings with LAC outside of the council to ensure council represents as wide a range of LAC voices as possible</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CICC will need help to do this from their Participation Workers and Local Authority</li> <li>• Might involve a CIC council website or email address</li> <li>• Include hard to reach, often excluded children e.g. younger children, disabled children and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Support them in meetings. Perhaps have separate meetings for younger members, so they can at least be regularly consulted about things.</li> </ul>
<b>Were you already doing this? If so, how?</b>	<p>Change Council members felt they already did this; they have in the past fully participated in regional &amp; National groups – but they stopped meeting. They could look at:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∇ find out how they could improve</li> <li>∇ find out what other people are doing / meet up with other Care councils</li> <li>∇ we don't have a participation worker, we have a Children &amp; young people's rights officer</li> </ul>
<b>If not, when did you ask your local authority to help you do this?</b>	
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will you start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be helping you do this in another way?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council</p> <p>name.....</p> <p>Date .....May 2011.....</p>

**3**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Review outcome indicators twice a year, including placement stability and educational achievement, holding officials and councillors to account.</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to discuss with local authority what figures show, and what this says about quality of services.</li> <li>• Should be regular reviews asking children’s views e.g.</li> </ul> <p>There is evidence that extra one-to-one tuition really helps looked after children do well. Do all looked after children get the help they need to pass their exams?</p> <p>Why do we place so many children out of area?</p> <p>Are children only being moved placements when it’s in their best interest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the data about outcomes is presented is important. Its presentation should be agreed with the CIC council as it’s vital they understand it.</li> </ul>
<b>Were you already doing this? If so, how?</b>	<p>Change Council feel this already happens Via quarterly Corporate Parenting Board meeting – performance indicators are looked at and Change council have in the past asked that these show numbers &amp; not just percentages – this happens</p> <p>∇ Young people from Change also felt that twice a year was not enough – it should be 3/4months</p>
<b>If not, when did you ask your local authority to help you do this?</b>	
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will you start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be helping you do this in another way?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council</p> <p>name.....</p> <p>Date .....May 2011.....</p>



**4**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Regularly audit / interrogate LA to ensure legal requirements are being met</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HE Bursary is being paid. (How are you making sure that your care leavers at university know their legal entitlement to the £2,000 bursary?)</li> <li>○ Are all care leavers consulted and given a choice over accommodation where they will be safe and supported?</li> <li>○ Do Social Workers visit all LAC within required statutory requirements?</li> <li>○ Are Review meetings held on time and in appropriate places, with children’s views at the centre?</li> </ul> <p>Also check on the local pledge commitments and ensure that it is being widely communicated.</p>
<b>Were you already doing this? If so, how?</b>	<p>Change council felt this already happened :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ young people going to University from Sunderland got a “good package”</li> <li>✓ figures on SW visits &amp; reviews are discussed regularly at CP Board meetings</li> <li>✓ Housing/accommodation issues have been raised at CPB</li> <li>✓ Care leavers do discuss their accommodation choices &amp; wishes with their workers</li> <li>✓ The Pledge has been Launched widely across the City and young people can hold services to account – every Child &amp; young person has been sent a copy of the pledge</li> </ul>
<b>If not, when did you ask your local authority to help you do this?</b>	
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will you start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be helping you do this in another way?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council</p> <p>name.....</p> <p>Date .....May 2011.....</p>

**5**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Reward young people appropriately for attending meetings</b>
<b>Detail</b>	<p>This should be in a way which is agreed by the CICC, and can be imaginative e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hourly fee for meetings</li> <li>○ Provide vouchers for those who attend</li> <li>○ Organise paid for activities which members of the CICC can participate in together</li> <li>○ Give regular participants in CICC council the opportunity to get a qualification / accredited training</li> <li>○ Young people receive credits towards paying for a holiday for each meeting they attend</li> </ul>
<b>Were you already doing this? If so, how?</b>	<p>Change Council members do get rewarded for attending Main meeting and some additional meeting &amp; training, however the young people stated:-</p> <p>“We don’t think it’s that important as we are volunteering, we would still be coming if we didn’t get anything. We come to these meeting because they help us &amp; other young people”.</p>
<b>If not, when did you ask your local authority to help you do this?</b>	
<b>Did they agree?</b>	
<b>If yes, when will you start doing this?</b>	
<b>If not, why? Are you happy with their answer? Will they be helping you do this in another way?</b>	
<b>Signed by Children in care council representative</b>	<p>Signature ...Sunderland Change Council  name.....  Date ..... May 2011.....</p>