

## We will make sure we listen to your views

The Children in Care Council (CICC) is made up of children and young people like you. You get a chance to tell us what you think about services and how they could be improved. There are lots of different projects taking place as part of the CICC and they meet up regularly with the Service Director for Children and Young People and the Lead Member for Children and Families, and they make sure your views are listened to and acted on! To get involved, please get in touch with the Participation Service. We need new members, fresh ideas and everyone from a care background is welcome.

### Useful contacts

**Wakefield Children in Care Participation Service & Children in Care Council**  
01924 304223

sHuntington@wakefield.gov.uk or  
rstanley@wakefield.gov.uk  
www.care4us.co.uk

**Wakefield Leaving Care Team**  
01924 304100

**Children's Rights Director for England**  
Freephone: 0800 528 0731  
www.rights4me.org  
www.incareinfo.org  
www.voiceyp.org

## Why a Pledge?

A pledge is an important part of running a service for Children in Care and Care Leavers. It tells Children and Young People what we promise to do for them as their Corporate Parents. Inside this leaflet you will find Wakefield's Pledge to OUR Children in Care and Care Leavers. We have also designed a card for you to cut out and put in your wallet to help you remember our top commitments wherever you are working and helping to promote children's rights.

The pledge is for all children and young people in our care from birth to 25. Please use this pledge as it will help you understand all of the things we can offer you and help you get the most of the support we have to offer.

## Not sticking to our pledge?

Please tell us what you think of the pledge; this is our latest version for 2018. If you don't think we are sticking to what we have said, tell us; we are here to help.

You can contact your Participation Worker by calling  
01924 304223/ email sHuntington@wakefield.gov.uk or  
rstanley@wakefield.gov.uk



# TH3PL3DG3

## The Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers

Driving our children and young people to achieve success

This **Remember Me Card** belongs to

I am proud to have signed up to, and fully support the Pledge to our Children and Young People

Approve by Wakefield Children in Care Council

**wakefieldcouncil**  
working for you

**wakefieldcouncil**  
working for you

## When you live in care we will:

- Listen to you and take your wishes and feelings into account in all our work with you, and explain why if we have to override this.
- Make it our Mission to provide you with stable placements where you can feel happy, safe and settled.
- Help foster carers understand the importance of 'Stick-ability' to provide you with the best care through good times and the times that maybe harder.
- Help you to understand the reason you are in care.
- Confidentiality—to only share information about you if we are sure it is in your best interests to do so.
- Make sure that training for corporate parents promotes respect and understanding that all children are unique and ensure Participation and Voices training is mandatory for all new carers and staff working with looked after children.
- Provide you with information about what you're entitled to when you become looked after or when you need it via our dedicated website [www.care4us.co.uk](http://www.care4us.co.uk). Make sure your social worker gets to know you, and listens to what you have to say. Involve you in having a say in your care plan and let you see a copy of it so we are open with you about how we will provide your care.
- Involve Children and Young People in the recruitment and training of foster carers and in the recruitment of new staff directly working with looked after children ensuring we employ the best people to work with you.
- We will help you to keep a record of important events, achievements and people in your life; this is often called a Life Story Book.

Our Main Message to you is: -

- **P**PROMISE TO INVOLVE YOU IN DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR LIVES
- **L**ISTEN TO YOUR VOICES AND EXPERIENCES
- **E**XPERTS ARE THOSE IN CARE
- **D**IRECTING YOU TOWARDS THE PATH TO A POSITIVE FUTURE
- **G**ETTING YOU THE BEST – THAT INCLUDES, FOSTER CARERS, SOCIAL WORKER, PLACEMENTS AND ALL THAT IS OFFERED WHILE IN CARE
- **E**NCOURAGE AND SUPPORT YOU AS WE WOULD OUR OWN CHILDREN

## Support to keep in touch with family and friends

- Listen to you and take your wishes and feelings into account in all our work with you, and explain why if we have to override this.
- Make it our Mission to provide you with stable placements where you can feel happy, safe and settled.
- Help foster carers understand the importance of 'Stick-ability'
- If possible, we will keep you with your brothers and sisters when you come into care.
- Be creative in types of contact venue used and organise activities around contact time and ask you what your ideas of contact venue are and wherever possible use these venues.
- If you want to sleepover at a friends house, and if it's just the once, your social worker and carer should be able to agree this (as long as its safe). If it's many times, we will need to make checks and if a sleep over is not allowed you will be told why.
- Support you if your contact does not go right or if family members do not join in.

## Supporting you in Education, we will:

- Do everything we can to enable you to do as well at school as you possibly can.
- Provide a special team (REACH) dedicated to the improving your experience of education.
- Provide you with grants of up to £500 to help you do activities related to learning, aspiration & achievement as agreed in your plans.
- Ensure there is a designated teacher (a teacher that supports Children in Care) at every school to help you settle in and support your needs.
- Work with partners and other organisations to help schools plan services and support for you while you are looked after.
- We will provide work experience placements and employment opportunities within the Council and partner agencies.
- We will expect your carers to take an active interest in your education and support you to do your homework and attend parent's evenings.
- Make sure you have access to IT needed for education and training. Celebrate your achievements at an Annual Award Ceremony.

## When you move into adulthood, we will:

- Provide an allocated leaving care worker to support you with all issues around your future.
- Do all we can to make sure accommodation provided for you is safe, suitable, and secure and of a good standard and ensure you have a say in where you live.
- Make sure you have a pathway plan and are involved in making decisions about getting ready to leave care.
- Offer a leaving care forum – an opportunity to have your voices heard around issues relating to leaving care.
- Give you chance to have a say about what your 'setting up home' grant is spent on.
- Make sure you have a bank account, birth certificate, passport and national insurance number soon after your 16th birthday.
- Make sure when you leave school you receive an offer of education, employment or training, and the opportunity to discuss this with a careers advisor.
- Provide you with accommodation when you are home from college or University.
- Help young people learn life skills linked to accredited courses.
- Provide help and financial support to go into higher education.

## In supporting your Health and Emotional Well Being, we will:

- We will provide a dedicated health and emotional well-being team to support you and find out the best ways to engage with children and young people.
- Listen to how children and young people want their health reviews.
- Provide dedicated nurses for looked after children.
- Give looked after young people a care summary of their Health Plan and record of all treatment and vaccinations they have had.
- Continue to provide a sports and leisure pass for looked after children and young people.