

Northamptonshire pledge to children in care and care leavers

We will:

Help you be physically and emotionally healthy

We will have achieved this when:

- You have the right support for your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and you do not have to wait too long for it
- The adults close to you understand your needs
- You have a good understanding of your health needs and history, when you are in care and when you leave care

Make sure you are living in the right place

We will have achieved this when:

- You are living with people who understand you, care for you well and build a positive relationship with you
- You have a safe and stable home life
- Where you are living does not affect how well you are looked after

Make sure you have great relationships in your life

We will have achieved this when:

- You have regular contact with those who are important to you, as long as it's safe
- You understand why you are in care and are involved with the plans that affect your life
- We are warm and courteous towards you, do what we say we will, and respect your culture and identity
- You have enough quality time with the adults (social worker, personal adviser, teacher, doctor, nurse) who are there to support you, at a time that is convenient to you
- Changes of social worker or personal adviser are avoided wherever possible. Any changes are explained to you and you are introduced to the new person properly

Make sure you get a good education

We will have achieved this when:

- You are achieving the best you can
- You have a stable school where you feel safe
- You feel part of your school community and able to take part in clubs and activities
- You have adults who understand your needs and put the right things in place to support you

Help you prepare for the future

We will have achieved this when:

- As you become independent, you have a suitable place to live which feels like a proper home
- You are in education, employment or training, helping you reach your potential
- You are helped to manage your money effectively and get the right benefits
- You have access to leisure services and can get around easily

Involve you in developing our services and holding us to account

We will have achieved this when:

- We celebrate your successes
- We actively seek and take account of your views, wishes and feelings to improve our services to you
- You can access useful and accurate information about services available and the people who can support you
- You feel able to share complaints compliments and comments about our services
- There is a range of opportunities for you to get involved to with helping to improve all services to children and young people

How are we doing?

You can print this Pledge and use it as a checklist to record how we are doing, and show it to your Social Worker, Personal Adviser or Independent Reviewing Officer.