

PROMISES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE
FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST



These are the promises to children and young people in care which the South Gloucestershire Children's Trust Board is pledging on your behalf.

Children and young people were asked what they wanted to be pledged to them by those who help or work with them. They identified 5 main themes:

- ① Important people**
- ② Being involved and listening**
- ③ Having somewhere to live**
- ④ Helping me know about what I need**
- ⑤ Help to create a good future for me**

Children and young people also wanted to call these “Promises”, and not “Pledges”, because this word had more meaning for them.

Below are these themes in more detail, with their specific actions, many of which you can help with.

All children and young people in care have information about these promises, and will expect them to be supported.

WE PROMISE

We will ask you which people are important to you and ensure you keep in contact with them if it is safe to do so.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- Help you to have contact with your family and the people important to you in a safe way.
- We will keep in touch with your parents so they know how you are doing and include them in planning for you where this is appropriate.
- Help you to keep in touch with your friends, and have sleepovers, if this is safe to do so.
- Provide you with someone to talk to and share things if there is no-one in your family to do this.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- Make sure that you live close to your home area, if this is safe for you, so you can keep in contact with people you know.
- Make sure you always have a social worker and that you have the same social worker for as long as possible.
- Make sure that foster carers and carers are trained and offer you the best possible home life.
- Make sure that the right people are able to help you be successful in school.

MAIN AREA FOR ACTION THIS YEAR

We will undertake a complete review of Contact arrangements for Children in Care.

WE PROMISE

We will make sure that you are involved in the plans we make for you about your future.

We will ask for your opinion and take account of what you say.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- Take the time to get to know each other so you can learn to trust us.
- Always listen to what you want to tell us.
- We will tell you what we are doing and why we are doing it.
- We will provide you with an independent visitor, if you do not have someone in your life who can do this.
- Make sure that your views are accurately recorded in documents about you.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- When we make a decision which is not what you want, we will let you know the reason why.
- Make sure that the Children in Care Council continues to be a way for you to have your views listened to.
- Invite you to be involved in planning and developing services we provide.
- We will invite you to be part of staff and foster carer recruitment and training.
- We will tell you what has happened after we have done what we promised.

MAIN AREA FOR ACTION THIS YEAR

We will develop a policy for all agencies to make sure that you are asked about your views and these are accurately recorded.

WE PROMISE

We will make sure that you have somewhere to live and can make it your home.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- We will ask you your views when you need a new home and wherever possible ensure you visit this placement before you move there.
- Make sure that you have a long term home as soon as possible.
- We will make sure you receive support to make where you live your home, and to stay there as long as it is safe to do so.
- Make sure that you have your own space at home to study and relax in and that this is respected.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- Make sure that your carer will help you keep up your cultural and religious beliefs.
- Make sure you have the chance to use the trainer flat before you leave care so you can choose what type of accommodation you would like.
- We will help you move to independence at the right time for you.
- Make sure that if you find living independently difficult that we will stick by you and help you sort things out.

MAIN AREA FOR ACTION THIS YEAR

We will work together to ensure young people coming into care who are homeless are provided with suitable housing.

WE PROMISE

We will provide you with information about your care, new opportunities and your rights.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- We will improve the ways we provide information to you.
- We will make sure you can access information about why you came into care, and information about your family, if this is available to us.
- We will ensure you can access high quality information, advice and guidance at key points.
- Make sure you know about opportunities about interesting things to do outside the school day.
- Make sure you can get information and advice about your health and living healthily.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- Make sure you have advice, information and help to make choices about your future.
- We will provide you with information about work experience and employment.
- Help you learn to manage your money
- We will provide you with information about the help you will get if you stay in education or go to university.
- We will help you to access concessionary travel if you live in South Gloucestershire and are 13 yrs or older

MAIN AREA FOR ACTION THIS YEAR

To improve the information we provide to you and how it is provided.

WE PROMISE

We will support you to discover your talents and abilities and find ways for you to make the most of these.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- We will make sure you have a record of your childhood and information about your time in care.
- We will make sure you have a good education including pre-school.
- We will provide you with extra help in school and at home if you need it.
- We will help you to stay at the same school, even if you have to move home.
- We will help you to gain the most appropriate qualifications for you.
- We will provide you with work experience if you want this.

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS

- We will encourage you to go to university or training for a particular job.
- We will help you to find and keep employment.
- We will offer you help to stay out of trouble.
- We will make sure you can join clubs or learn new skills by helping with transport and costs.

MAIN AREA FOR ACTION THIS YEAR

We will plan your learning with you in a timely way to make sure your needs are met.

If you would like this information in a different format or languages, please contact: ☎ 01454 868009