

## **BROMLEY PLEDGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE**

The Pledge is a set of promises made by London Borough of Bromley and the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board to all Bromley children in care and care leavers.

All adults who work for and with the Council have a responsibility to make sure that you are safe, healthy and achieving your goals. This pledge spells out how we promise to help. We promise to help you to do your best. We are committed to involving you in any decisions that affect your life, asking you what you think, listening to you and taking your views into account. This is part of the local authority's commitment to making sure that all children are valued in every aspect of their life and in the life of their community.

### **UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES**

1. We will only promise you things that we know we can do and we will make sure that you know who is responsible for delivering these promises. If these promises are broken the Director of Education, Care and Health Services, the Portfolio Holder for Care Services and the Living in Care Council would like to know, so they can investigate it.
2. We aim to be good as parents and will care for you as an individual person. We will therefore do the following:
  - Provide you somewhere safe and caring to live
  - Mark your birthdays
  - Help you to celebrate your religious festivals
  - Make sure you receive a copy of your school photo and reports
3. We will consider of your needs, especially those relating to disability, race, culture, religion and sexuality.

We will consider anything that is leading to you being treated unfairly and will give you support to overcome it, including anyone treating you unfairly because you are in care.
4. We will always involve you in the decisions are made for you, at a level that is right for your understanding. We will respect your right to make choices about your life. Our first priority will always be to make sure you are safe and happy.
5. We will ensure that you have an allocated worker that best suits your needs and that you will have the opportunity to talk to your worker alone every time he/she visits you.
6. We want you to be healthy, safe, have fun and gain achievements for yourself. We want you to have stability in your life, to make a positive

contribution to your community and to leave care able to make your way successfully in life. We will support you to achieve all this.

7. We will have expectations of you as well and we will make these clear to you through your LAC Reviews, Personal Education Plan meetings and during your Pathway planning.
  8. We will ensure that you receive your full set of rights, as set out in relevant law and guidance and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
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## **THE PLEDGE**

As your corporate parents:

### **Staying Safe**

1. If you ask us we will provide you with an independent person to talk to if you are worried and do not want to talk to your carer or social worker.
2. We will involve you in choosing the staff working with or for children and young people and the training of new social workers and foster carers.
3. You will be given an input in the choice of your foster carer where that is possible and in planned moves we will make sure that you get good information about new carers and a proper introduction to them.
4. If you get into trouble with the police and are arrested we will make sure that the most suitable person comes along to support you, preferably someone you know wherever this is possible.
5. We will do our best to reduce the number of changes of social workers you have while you are in care and make sure you are provided with the reasons why if this needs to happen.

### **Being Healthy**

6. To ensure that looked after children in and out of Bromley have the best chance of being healthy we will provide the following:
  - Access to a Looked After Children's nurse
  - Access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and counselling services
  - Access to a healthy varied diet
  - Support to attend all medical appointments
  - Providing parents and carers with information and support

- Ensuring that you have all of your vaccinations, dental and other health checks
  - Relevant sexual health information
7. If you are looked after and a teenage parent we will provide you with access to parenting classes to support you to build your parenting skills.

### **Enjoy and Achieve**

8. We will work with all education providers to ensure that you are supported in your education. We will support you to achieve your full academic potential by providing you with personal education plan meetings (PEPs).
9. We will along with your PEP provide you with educational materials which will help you to succeed in your education. This will include:
- Access to a computer from year 9 until you finish your education
  - Books
  - Stationary
  - Revision guides
10. Tuition will be provided if the need is identified by your personal education plan.
11. We will support you financially to participate in extra curriculum activities through the following ways:
- Foster carers allowance
  - Personal Education Allowance
  - Pupil Premium
12. We will make a financial contribution to your studies whilst at university or when training towards a specific career.
13. Bromley Youth Support Programme will provide opportunities to looked after children in and out of borough to attend events.
14. We will offer financial support to access good quality leisure activities where ever you live.

### **Make a positive contribution**

15. We will ask for your views about all services we provide you, via these ways:
- Bromley's Living in Care Council

- Support to attend the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers
  - Giving you the opportunity to nominate for the Foster Carer awards
  - Asking care leavers for their views of their care experience
16. We will promote and support the Living in Care Council with an annual budget so that they can actively engage with you the care population.
17. We will help you to celebrate and promote achievements by providing you with an annual celebration of achievement awards.
18. As well as your social worker we will make sure that there is another way to tell us if you are unhappy or have a complaint. We will do this by providing you access to:
- An advocate
  - The Living in Care Council
  - An Independent Visitor
  - A complaints form
19. We will work with others to provide you with information about volunteering and access to opportunities to help others. The opportunities will be on [www.linkinbromley.co.uk](http://www.linkinbromley.co.uk)

### **Economic Wellbeing**

20. We will work with your parents or carers to ensure that you have a passport or know why you don't have one or have access to it.
21. We will explore options for opening bank accounts for all children in care and will discuss with you how your pocket money is managed. Your social worker will be provided with an annual statement from your carers to share with you.
22. Where needed, we will support you to learn to drive where this will help you get into training and the right job.
23. Once you enter the Leaving Care Team we will work with you to help you become an independent adult. Before you leave care we will make sure that you have a good understanding of your:
- Accommodation needs
  - Support network
  - Managing your finances
  - Paying bills
  - Housework and cooking
24. We will ensure that when you leave school you have been given an offer of education, employment or training.

25. As your corporate parents we will provide work experience opportunities and apprenticeship.
26. We will support you to stay put with your foster carers until the age of 21, if this is what you and your foster carers want and the arrangement means that you have a better chance of succeeding.