

Corporate Parenting Pledge

We, the Council as Corporate Parent, pledge:

Staying Safe

- We will make sure that your social worker visits you once during the first week of your placement and then at least every 6 weeks after.
- We will only change your social worker if absolutely necessary and informing you of these changes and outlining the reasons why it has happened will be a priority.
- We will raise awareness of issues that place children and young people at risk so they can make choices about how to keep themselves safe.
- If we feel that you are not safe, we will speak to you and make appropriate decisions for your safety and wellbeing.
- We will try our best to place you as close to your family as possible if that is what you want and it is in your best interests.
- We will place you in a welcoming home.

Inclusion & Your Identity

- We will make sure that you are able to request to 'Stay Put' with your existing foster carers, if you wish, up to the age of 21 and we will try our best to make that happen.
- We will make sure you are up to date about local activities for children and young people.
- We will help you to get a passport, NI number and all other forms of identification when you are legally allowed obtain them.
- We will give you the opportunity to learn about your culture.
- We will support you in identifying/expressing all elements of your identity.
- We will help you understand your journey through care.

Health & Well Being

- We will make sure that you receive a health assessment once a year (Under 5's will be assessed every six months) and support you in accessing all health services that you need.
- We will help you understand your own health needs, physical, mental and emotional.
- We will help you access leisure and sports activities, school holiday activities and weekend activities and trips.
- We will ensure that you receive regular dentist appointments.
- We will encourage you to access age-appropriate help with your mental and emotional wellbeing, including CAMHS/mental health services and/or counselling.

Wishes and Feelings

- We will ensure that your voice is listened to at all stages of your time in care and leaving care, including through our Children in Care council.
- We will ensure that your social worker operates in a child centred way, puts your needs first, and listens to your wishes and feelings.
- We will celebrate your achievements and provide opportunities for you to share those achievements with others.
- We will manage your leaving care transition sensitively, ensuring your social worker and personal advisor work closely together.

- We will make sure there are various channels in which you can communicate your thoughts and feelings; this could be through your social worker/ personal advisor (PA), through consultations/questionnaires, an advocate or Aspire. We will make sure you can meet with your Independent Reviewing Officer before your review to share your thoughts and feelings.

Education

- We will provide support from Haringey Virtual School so that you can achieve the best results overall, including access to equipment and resources that are essential to your success.
- We will ensure that you have access to advice and guidance in order to help you plan your future career.
- We will support you post-16 into further education, university, training or employment.
- We will make sure that you have accommodation available during holidays if you decide to go to university outside London.
- We will always try to help you to go to good/outstanding schools where you live.

Rights & Entitlement for Children in Care & Care Leavers

- We will explain what it means to be in care and what to expect throughout your time in care. When you leave care we will help you understand how to look after yourself. Your social worker should explain what a pathway / care plan / PPG / PEP meeting is and revisit regularly, checking your understanding.
- We will make clear to you your rights and entitlements, and your social worker or PA will help you to understand what is available at each stage.
- We will help you become more independent and empower you to learn skills that will help you in future, for instance workshops on housing and money management.
- We will work with you to find suitable/safe accommodation and help you to maintain your tenancy when you leave care.

Complaints Procedure

- We will provide or let you nominate someone neutral to speak to about any concerns you have and ensure you have the information you need to contact them.
- If you are not happy with your social worker / PA, you or an adult you trust will be able to contact their manager easily and arrange a meeting with them if you want.
- The manager will get back to you within 2 working days and give a time frame for responding to the issues you have raised.

With thanks to Aspire

