



Knowsley's Children Looked After and Care Leaver's Pledge



Making A Difference Everywhere



Knowsley Council



Pledge

Knowsley's Children Looked After and Care Leaver's Pledge has been developed by Knowsley Council in response to Knowsley's Children Looked After Charter pointing out clearly what support children and young people in care and leaving care can expect from the corporate parents.

There are six groups of pledges based on the lives of children and young people who are looked after, as well as recognising the additional needs of care leavers.

They are:

- **Where you live**
- **Corporate parents**
- **Advice and support**
- **Health and happiness**
- **Education and training**
- **Growing up and moving on**



Where you live

As your corporate parents we pledge to:

- Make sure we take your views, wishes and feelings in to account, before making a decision about where you live so you are involved in this process too.
- Ensure that information is available to you about where you are going to live before moving to help you to feel more comfortable with the move.
- Provide training to the people who care for you to make sure you are being cared for in the right way.
- Ask for your feedback on the quality of care provided by carers to help us to identify good quality placements and the services that we can continue to use in the future.
- Help you to stay in touch with people who are important to you, including friends, foster siblings etc.
- Aim to 'get it right the first time' to minimise the number of times you move from where you live.

You said:

“ We need to be encouraged to be involved in decisions about where we live, and who we live with, and we need for people caring for us to make sure the care that is provided is of high quality.

”

Corporate parents

The adults from Knowsley Borough Council and partners, who are responsible for you.

- We will continue to support the voice of children looked after and care leavers to have a say in the service you receive from your corporate parents by listening to you and responding to you in meaningful ways.
- We will work with you as your corporate parents to help keep you safe and also to help keep you from being exploited in any way.
- We will make sure that the adults in your life encourage and empower you to have a say in the decisions that affect your life no matter what your age or personal circumstances.
- We will make sure there's suitable training available for the adults in your life who are responsible for you, to help them to understand what it's like to be a young person who is in care or care leaver.

You said:

“ We need to feel that the people in our lives care for us, treat us as they would their own child. We need the adults who are responsible for us to listen with their hearts as well as their ears. ”

Advice and Support

- We will provide trained peer advisors and mentors to support you during your time in care and through difficult times in your life, such as when you first come in to care.
- We will make sure the adults working with you are aware of your rights, and practical, emotional and financial support that you are entitled to as a child in care or care leaver.
- We will work on the understanding that you don't always need to ask for advice and support; that we just need to ensure it's available to you in different forms and different ways.
- To show the commitment we have to you in caring for your needs and future outcomes we will provide opportunities for children looked after and care leavers to understand more about their corporate parents because we know that this makes a difference to you.
- We will make sure that you are aware of how to make comment or complaint to help resolve some of the issues you may face throughout your time in care.
- We will support your need to have access to an advocate to help you to express your views, wishes and feelings to ensure you are fully involved in the decisions that are about and will fully affect your life.

You said:

“ We want to feel confident that children and young people and the adults in their lives have the correct information and training to advise and support us in the best way. ”



Your health and happiness

- We will make sure that young people who are in the care of Knowsley Council but who live out of the borough feel just as supported as young people who live in Knowsley by promoting better working relationships with services in other areas.
- We will make sure we are available to listen to your feedback about health services that are available to you, and we will act to improve areas that need to be developed.
- Knowsley Leisure Service will provide free leisure passes to children in care and care leavers to ensure leisure facilities are accessible to you.
- We will hold events and provide information sharing opportunities to help children and young people to understand more about their own health and wellbeing as well as the services that are available to them.
- We will promote individual's own hobbies and interests as we understand this has an impact on individual health, happiness and overall wellbeing.
- We will support you during any difficulties you might face by constantly trying to understand more about how we can improve 'being there for you.'

You said:

“ We need good relationships with the people supporting us so they know when we need emotional support as well as practical and physical support, this is part of thinking about our lives as a whole. ”

Education and training

- We will continue to develop the virtual school and use our power to support you in the best way, to suit your own individual educational needs, dreams and aspirations.
- We will work with the Youth Mutual and your Participation Officer to provide a wide range of opportunities which include you, involve you, empower you and build your confidence and self esteem, because we know your hobbies and interests are important, as well as the views you have about the service you receive.
- We will continue to promote the importance of your involvement in your own Care plan, which includes your personal education plan (pep) because we understand that your views matter.
- We will help you to celebrate your achievements and recognise when you have made a personal achievement yourself.

You said:

“ We want to have the same opportunities as young people who are not in care and we don't want people to give up on us. We need understanding when we access education and training because it's hard to switch off from the many problems that may affect us due to being in care. ”



Growing up and moving on

- We will support you through the ups and the downs in life and will provide a listening ear when you need us most.
- We will support you to access your entitlements as a care leaver and continue to develop a care leaver's support group to provide opportunities to meet with other care leavers.
- We will ensure that your carers and people supporting you provide support to improve your independence skills (including practical, social and emotional skills) so you are able to care for yourselves and become more independent individuals. This way we can make sure you are prepared before you move on, if this is what you want to do.
- We will care for you and help you to recover from the mistakes that you make because we understand that mistakes are part of growing up.

You said:

“ We want to feel supported in a way that any good parent would support their child to have comfort, safety, and happiness by considering our needs on an individual basis no matter what age we are. ”

Contact information

NYAS

National Youth Advocacy service

NYAS are available to you to help you get your views and wishes across and they can also speak for you in case you feel you can't speak to the adults involved in your life.

Call freephone **0808 808 1001**

Weekdays 9am to 8pm

Saturday 10am to 4pm

Excluding Bank Holidays, or send an email to **help@nyas.net**

Complaints

Alma Wills is the children and young peoples complaints officer here in Knowsley and you can contact her on

0151 443 3231 or visit

www.madeforus.co.uk and go to the 'I have a problem' tab on the top toolbar.

MADE

(Making a Difference Everywhere)

MADE (Making a difference everywhere) is a group of young people who get together to make a difference to the care experiences of children in care and care leavers. MADE is a group where you can be yourself, voice up and have fun with one another.

For more information visit

www.madeforus.co.uk or contact

MADE@knowsley.gov.uk

Facebook: **MADEKnowsley**

Participation officer: **0151 443 4021** or

07775 221 949





OFSTED

Is an organisation that works for the government to inspect children's services to make sure they are doing what they need to do in the right way to help children to be happy and safe from harm). OFSTED inspect children's services every three years.

**Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street,
Manchester M1 2WD**

0300 123 1231

ENQUIRYS@OFSTED.GOV.UK

ChildLine

ChildLine is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of nineteen. You can contact a ChildLine counsellor about anything - no problem is too big or too small. Call free on **0800 1111**, have a 1-2-1 chat online or visit **childline.org.uk**

**NSPCC, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road,
London EC2A 3NH**

A National Voice

An organisation of care experienced professionals and staff who work to improve care experiences for children looked after and care leavers across England.

**Central Hall, Oldham Street
Manchester M1 1JQ
info@anationalvoice.org**

Tel: 0161 237 5577

Fax: 0161 237 1441



Knowsley Childrens
Complaints Officer



Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team
Huyton Municipal Building Archway Road Huyton L36 9YU

If you would like to contact your independent reviewing officer about your views or to contact us about this form you can call us on 0151 443 4786 or 0151 443 4021.

Once completed your views will be used as your contribution towards your review meeting. We also use this information to help us understand what needs to improve to help other children and young people have better experiences of care.

If you need this form in any other language or colour / font size please contact our Participation Officer on 0151 443 4021, and we will be happy to help.