

The Brighton & Hove Pledge

The Government has recently put together a list of proposals to make the care system better for young people, in a document called *Care Matters: Time For Change*. One of these proposals is that each local council should put together a Pledge (a set of promises) about what children and young people in care can expect from the council.

1. We will recognise your strengths & interests

By:

- Tracking your progress
- Knowing what's going well
- Looking at your options
- Providing you with role models
- Recognising your cultural needs
- Supporting you to do the things you enjoy in your free time



2. We will encourage you to aim high



By:

- Knowing your strengths and interests
- Knowing what you do well
- Knowing what you need to improve upon
- Helping you meet your targets
- Being involved in planning your education

3. We will support you to succeed

By having access to:

- good childcare when you are little
- help at home and school
- extra help with school work from a tutor if you need one.
- ICT
- good quality resources



4. We will recognise your achievements



By:

- Being positive and consistent
- Providing an incentive
- Helping you build on your success
- Holding an awards ceremony

5. We will make sure you can say what you want to say



Everyone can
state their
views

By:

- Listening carefully to your opinions, wishes and feelings
- Seriously considering your ideas
- Explaining our decisions

6. We will make sure you are able to take part in meetings

By:

- Helping you manage meetings about yourself
- Asking you what you want to say and how you want to say it.
- Making sure that an Independent Reviewing Officer works with you to plan your Reviews.



It's your
life - it's your
Review

7. We will make sure you have help if you want to make a formal suggestion or complaint



Complaints
procedures
should sort it
out!

By:

- Making it easy to tell the council what you think
- Making it easy to put forward suggestions and complaints
- Making it easy to ask for an Advocate to help you voice your opinions
- Properly investigating your suggestions and complaints and telling you what we are going to do about them.

8. We will make sure you can tell decision makers what you think about the services you receive

By:

- Inviting you to take part in the Brighton & Hove "Listen Up Care Council"
- Giving you the chance to put your ideas and opinions directly to the Big Bosses (the Director and Lead Member for Children's Services)



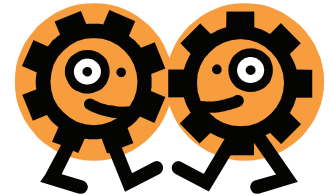
Help the bosses
understand

9. We promise to keep you safe

By:

- Making sure that you understand what a social worker is meant to do.
- Making sure you have a social worker and that you know how to contact him or her
- Making sure that your social worker visits you regularly and has time to listen to any worries that you might have
- Making sure you have an up to date Care Plan that spells out what you need
- Finding carers for you who will look after you if you can't live with your family

Everyone needs to feel secure



10. We will support you to be physically fit and well

By:

- Listening to your concerns and working with you
- Knowing what you need and making plans for improvements
- Offering advice and support
- Offering appointments when you need them
- Keeping a record of your progress.

Everyone can feel healthy



11. We will support your emotional health and well being

By:

- Helping you keep in touch with people who are important to you.
- Helping you to understand your own life story and what has happened to you.
- Listening to your worries
- Working with you so that you have the support you need
- Supporting you to take part in sport, activities and outings that you enjoy

Everyone needs support at times



And when you are older.....

12. We will support you into adult life

By:

- Guaranteeing you have your own Personal Adviser who will help you move from living in care to adult life
- Ensuring you have high quality 16+ information, advice and guidance
- Helping you consider job, apprenticeships, college or university options

Everyone has questions



Your place or mine?



13. We will help you to move on to a place that is right for you

By:

- Helping you find a good place to live
- Helping you to find a place of your own when this is right for you.

14. We promise to help you be healthy as you become older and more independent

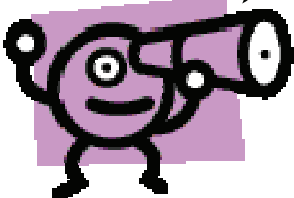
By:

- Helping you to use health services
- Providing you with information and practical help on how to keep yourself well
- Supporting you with sexual health needs
- Helping you - if you smoke - to give up when you are ready to
- Work with you if you use alcohol and /or drugs to find the help that you need

Everyone can make good choices



Give us a wave!



15. We will continue to support you by

By:

- Making sure you have a Pathway Plan that sets out what help and support you will get as you become an adult and move out of Care
- Making sure you have a named worker who will be there to support you up to 21. Contact will depend upon the level of support you need.
- Staying in your care or supported housing placement until you are ready and able to move on.

