



Cheshire West and Chester

1

**WE WILL ACTIVELY INVOLVE YOU IN MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR LIFE**

- We will ask you what you want to say and listen to your views.
- We will act on what you say and tell you what we have done and when we have done it.
- We will give you clear information about the bigger picture too, like policies that affect you, and let you know in a language you can understand, not just big documents.
- We will give you lots of opportunities, both formal and informal, that let you participate on your terms.
- We will give you structured opportunities to be involved in the recruitment of all staff and foster carers, as well as staff appraisals.

2

**WE WILL KEEP YOU SAFE AND HELP YOU TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE**



- We will make sure you live in a safe place where you are well looked after.
- We will not move you from your home / placement unless there is an issue around your welfare – if there is we will explain this clearly to you.
- We will check you are given good quality care. We will check that you are happy and settled.
- We will listen to you when you have concerns.
- We will make sure we get back to you with answers to your questions as soon as possible.

3

**WE WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL IN YOUR EDUCATION AND DREAMS.**

- We will listen to your views about your school and help you to attend one that suits you.
- We will listen to your views on academic life and respond and act quickly.
- We will help you grow in confidence, be proud of yourself and make positive decisions.
- We will make sure you don't have to change school wherever possible, especially in Years 10 and 11.
- We will keep you safe in school and make sure that you feel safe.
- We will tell you about Pupil Premium Plus
- We will use Pupil Premium Plus to support students who are struggling and who are ready for more of a challenge.
- We will produce documents that are easy to understand
- We will help you in education and if you get Pupil Premium Plus we will make sure you have a say in what it is spent on.
- We will make sure that you get a copy of your Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- We will help to concentrate on things that YOU want you to achieve.
- We will support you whilst you are in further education and training beyond 16 including going to college or university and help you plan for the future.
- We will help you to join in with activities in school, after school and within your community.
- We will celebrate your achievements.

4

**WE WILL RESPECT YOU AS INDIVIDUALS.**

- We will respect your rights in relation to disability, sexuality and race.
- We will support your right to follow both your culture and religion if that is your wish.
- We will appreciate and understand that at different ages your needs and wishes may change.
- We will make sure everyone is encouraged to participate at a level they are comfortable with.
- We will make sure that everyone is actively listened to, whatever their age or ability.
- We will make sure that listening to you becomes part of everyday life in Cheshire West and Chester.
- We will give you extra support when you need it.
- We will respect your right to privacy.
- We will only share information with people that need to know as and when they need it.

5

**WE WILL HELP YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU**

- We will support you to keep in touch with friends and family.
- We will help you to stay in touch with previous foster families, friends and other people who are important to you where possible and if this is what you want to happen.
- If this can't happen, we will be upfront with you, and explain in detail the reasons why.
- We will help keep things safe that are important to you.
- We will make sure that you understand what life story work is.



6

**WE WILL MAKE SURE YOU HAVE NAMED WORKERS, WHO WILL STAY WITH YOU WHILST YOU GROW UP, WHENEVER POSSIBLE**

- We will provide you with a qualified named Social Worker.
- We will make sure you have stability. Your worker will only be changed when it is absolutely necessary.
- Your worker will always send you a goodbye card when they leave or complete a goodbye visit.
- We will make sure that all workers employed by Cheshire West and Chester are reliable, punctual and safe people to be around children.
- All workers will let you know when they will visit and tell you if they can't make it.
- We will let you know ways to contact your worker and if you leave a message for them, someone will get back to you as soon as possible and ALWAYS within 2 working days.
- When your Social Worker meets with you in a public place they must not wear their ID Badge if you don't want them to.
- We will write to you, use text messaging and emails to contact you unless you tell us differently.
- Your Social Worker will tell you about your entitlements like -
  - The Children in Care Council (CICC)
  - The CICC Trust Fund
  - The Free Leisure Pass
  - Advocacy Service and what it does
  - Independent Visitor Service and what it is.
  - The Pupil Premium Plus.
  - Caring to Care Service and what it is for.

7

**WE WILL SUPPORT YOU TO HAVE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES**

- We will help you find activities, hobbies and clubs that you enjoy. We will support you to be able to join in with these.
- We will help you access community resources and help you apply for the CICC Trust Fund.
- We will reward and celebrate achievements in your lives and education.
- We will offer you a free leisure pass.
- We will give you support in all aspects of your life. To give you more support and opportunities you can apply for money from the CICC Trust Fund.



8

**WE WILL HELP YOU TO KEEP HEALTHY AND WELL**

- We will help you access appropriate and clear information about your health.
- We will make sure all hospital/GP and dental appointments are kept and that you are supported to attend.
- We will give you guidance about healthy living, diet and exercise.
- We will give a free Swim Pass to you and your Carer
- We will let you know where and how to get confidential help and advice.
- We will make sure there are safe places for you to play, that you can get to easily.
- We will contribute to issues around road safety and environmental concerns that affect your health, as a good parent would do.
- We will provide you with access to the 'Caring to Care' service.

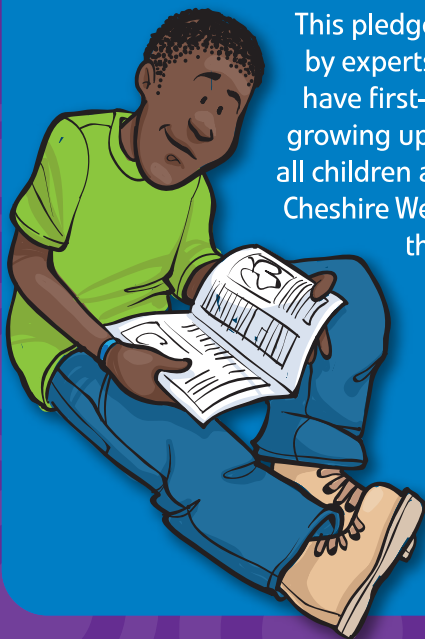


**We will be as passionate and committed to looking after you as we would our home grown children – and want no less for you. Being in care will not be a reason for missing out.**

Our Pledge is based on children’s rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), to which Britain is a signatory, as well as all rights awarded under relevant legislation, regulations and guidance.

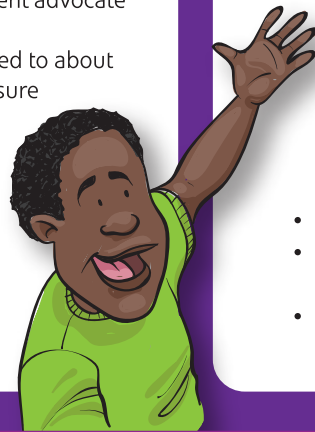
The pledge should link into all decision making structures that relate to children through Cheshire West & Chester.

This pledge has been drawn up by experts, namely those who have first-hand knowledge of growing up in care. Our aim is for all children and young people in Cheshire West & Chester to receive the best parenting possible.



### 9 WE WILL HELP AND SUPPORT YOU TO SORT OUT ANY PROBLEMS OR WORRIES YOU HAVE

- We will know you well enough to recognise when you are unhappy about something or have a comment, compliment or complaint to make.
- If you are unhappy about something we will support you to make a complaint.
- We will make sure that you can contact an independent advocate easily to help you with this.
- We will make sure that you can speak to who you need to about any concerns or issues you may have. We will make sure you know how to get hold of them, this may mean having access to a phone and if you have no credit on your mobile we will help you with this.
- Lead council members and senior staff responsible for children’s services will make sure that our complaints system is easily accessible to you.
- All Care Leavers will have a named Personal Advisor
- Care Leavers will be given priority band A status for housing within Cheshire West and Chester.



### 10 WE WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR FUTURE

- We will make sure that YOU WILL NOT pay Council Tax until you are 21 if you live in Cheshire West and Chester
- We will support you to apply for apprenticeships within the council
  - We will support you to have a range of high quality work experience placements.
  - The council will act as a ‘FAMILY’ firm and give you different opportunities where possible.
  - We will give you practical help, like taster driving lessons, clothing for interviews and different experiences.
- We help you to learn about how to manage your finances.
- We will help you fill out forms with other agencies such as housing and help you with all the negotiations.
- We will support you if you make mistakes and help you get back on track.

**you can write in this space. It’s for you to keep useful telephone numbers, addresses and names of people who you think that you may need to speak to again some time.**

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