




The Barnsley



PLEDGE
TO CHILDREN
& YOUNG
PEOPLE
IN CARE



MY SOCIAL WORKER'S NAME

MY SOCIAL WORKER'S PHONE NUMBER



BARNLSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

HERE'S **WHAT** *you can* **EXPECT**

from us...

1 We'll look after you in a safe and caring home



2 We'll promote, support and respect your identity

3 We'll ensure you receive a good education



4 Well support
you to be
healthy



5 Well
prepare
you for
the future



6 Well involve
you in
making it
happen



WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOU **INA** **SAFE** AND CARING HOME *by...*

Doing our **best** to provide you with a high quality **foster placement** or **residential home** which is in or very close to Barnsley, unless there's a good welfare reason for not doing so.

Doing **all we can** to place you with any **brothers** and **sisters** who are also coming into care at the same time, unless there's a good welfare reason for not doing so.

Making sure that wherever you're living, your carers are supported to understand and meet your needs and **help you feel safe**.

Asking for and listening to your views about the type of placement you'll have.



Providing you with information about **your placement** and an introduction to your carers before you move in, unless you have to move in an emergency.

Doing all we can to place you as quickly as possible after **coming into care**, in a placement that can and will last until you **leave care**.



WE'LL **PROMOTE,**
SUPPORT AND RESPECT
your **IDENTITY**
by...

Helping you to keep in contact with your **family and friends** if it's in your best interest, or if it's not possible we'll explain the reasons

Providing you with a 'life story book',

and helping you to keep it up-to-date.



Making sure



we understand any needs you have that are to do with **disability, culture, religion, gender or sexuality** and providing extra services if they can help you.



Supporting and encouraging you to take up and develop your own **interests, hobbies, activities, sports and talents** both inside and outside of school.



Supporting and encouraging you to get involved in your **community** through **volunteering** work and helping others if you want to.



WE'LL **ENSURE** YOU RECEIVE A GOOD **EDUCATION**

by...



Making sure you have a place at a **good school** that is local to where you live, unless it's agreed that there's a more suitable school to **meet your needs**.

Making sure you know who the designated **teacher for children** in care is, and that they take an active role in **supporting you**.

Making sure you have an up-to-date **Personal Education Plan**, reviewed at least once and year with your contribution.

Having **high aspirations** about your ability to succeed and if you need help to catch up with school work we'll make sure this is available, including supporting you with a **Personal Education Allowance** of up to £500 a year.

Making sure that three and four year olds receive early years learning opportunities.

Expecting and supporting your carers to actively support your education through attending relevant meetings and providing a suitable place to do homework.

Making sure that if you are a school age child you have **access** to a **computer** where you live.

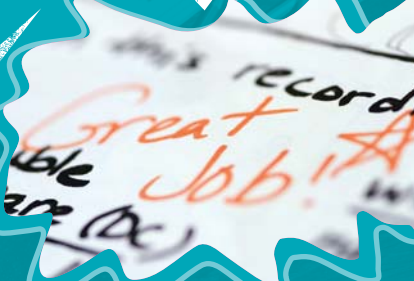


Trying our best to make sure you don't have to change school unless it's part of your Care Plan and never changing your school during years 10 and 11 unless there's a very good welfare reason for doing so.

Trying to make sure you **don't miss** school to attend appointments with the **people supporting you.**

Working with you and your carer to make sure you **attend school regularly**

Celebrating and promoting **your achievements.**



MY DESIGNATED TEACHER IS...

We'll **SUPPORT** YOU TO BE **HEALTHY** by...

Making sure you're registered with a **GP** and **dentist** and you're able to attend all your necessary immunisations and medical appointments, including an **annual health and dental assessment**.



Providing a specialist children in care **health advisor** to advise and support you, your carers and other health professionals so that you get the **best possible healthcare**.

Making sure you're able to take part in a range of **sporting, leisure, play** and other physical activities that will improve **your physical health**.

Making sure that if you **move home**, health services in your new area have information about **anything you may need**.



Supporting you to manage your own health needs as you get older, including providing information, **advice and support** about **relationships and sexual health**.

Making sure

you have **specialist support** if you feel so **angry, upset, scared, confused** or lonely that it's stopping you feeling **safe or happy**.



We'll **PREPARE** **you** FOR THE **Q** **FUTURE** by...

Making sure you have a **pathway plan** which you've contributed to, that sets out your **path to adulthood** from age 16 years and 3 months.

Making sure you've got a **bank account**, birth certificate, passport and National Insurance number soon after your **16th birthday**.



Making sure you have a **named personal advisor** from Barnsley's leaving care services.

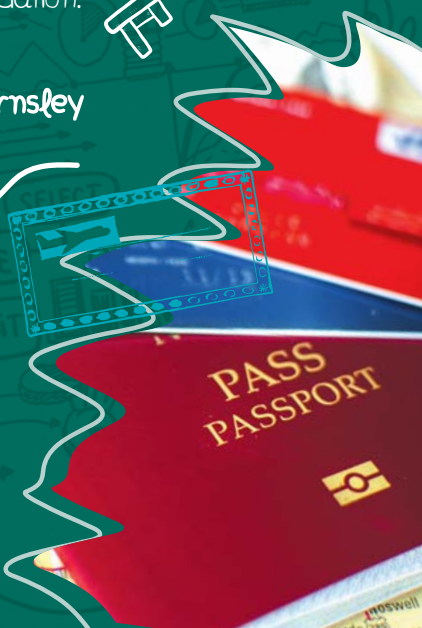
Caring for you in a care placement until your **18th birthday**.

Making sure when you leave school you receive an **offer of education, employment or training**, and the opportunity to discuss this with a **careers advisor**.

Doing all we can to make sure that when you leave care you'll be provided with suitable quality **accommodation in Barnsley**, unless this is against your wishes, and where you need it, this will be supported accommodation.

Provide you with **accommodation in Barnsley** when you're home from college or university.

For **'separated children'** we'll provide you with access to **English language classes** within two weeks of becoming a child in care and support you to take up additional educational opportunities.



WE'LL INVOLVE
YOU

IN
MAKING
IT

HAPPEN

by...

Providing you with a named
Independent Reviewing Officer
who will chair your childcare review
and **make sure** your views are heard
and understood.

Involving the
Children in Care
Council in developing,
monitoring and
reviewing this
pledge.

Listening
to your views
and opinions and
involving you in
decisions about
your care.

Your views matter to us!

Talking to you and other children and young people in care to help us decide how to **change** and **improve our services**.

Establishing a group of children and young people in care who will meet together with senior managers and Barnsley councillors regularly to talk about what it's like being in care and share ideas for making things better, this will be the **Children in Care Council**.

Supporting the Children in Care Council by providing **advice, assistance and information** and seeing how well we are doing to meet the **promises** made in **this pledge**.

Providing you with a copy of this pledge so that you know what we are doing and so that you can tell us if we're not meeting these promises, you can do this by talking to your social worker or reviewing officer, or anyone else who you know will tell us, including the Children's Rights Service.

If you want to talk to
someone about the
Barnsley Pledge
and what it means for
you please get in touch:



01226 775646



www.barnsley.gov.uk



BARNSELEY

Metropolitan Borough Council