

THE PLEDGE 2021

Now you are in care of West Berkshire, the Council are your Corporate Parent and we pledge:

- Where possible we will try to keep you and your brothers and/or sisters living together. If this is not possible your social worker will explain why.
- We will make sure you get to see people in your family who are important to you. If this is not possible your social worker will explain why.
- We want to know if you are unhappy about anything and your social worker will give you opportunities to express this when you meet with them.
- We promise to find you the best available home where you will be safe and supported. If we can we will try and give you a choice of where you might live and we will try to find a place to live that is near your family and friends.
- If time allows, you will have a proper introduction to your new home, and we will show you a picture of the people you might live with before you move into the home. If this isn't possible, your social worker will explain the reasons why.
- We pledge that your bedroom will be your personal space and you will have a say with how it's decorated.
- We promise to provide a social worker who will get to know you well and who will keep in contact with you and listen to what you say. We can't promise that this worker will not change but if there is a change you will be given the reasons why.
- You may not have a say in who your social worker is but if you don't get on with them, we will look at the reasons for this and possible options for change. We will give you information on how to contact your social worker by phone or email and who to call in an emergency.



- We will talk to you about how often your social worker will see you and will have the opportunity to speak alone with your social worker when they visit you.
- Social workers will be on time for meetings and, if not, explain why.
- We will ask you what your dreams are and will help you pursue them.
- Your carer will talk to you about your interests and hobbies and will support you in accessing them. If this isn't possible, you will be told the reasons why.
- Those caring for you will recognise your birthday, other important events and religious festivals in a way that is special to you.
- Those looking after you will give you pocket money and help you save for your future.
- You will have free access to West Berkshire leisure centres for some activities and your social worker will provide you with information about these facilities and local activities.
- Your views will be important and contribute to your review meetings. You will be invited to be part of our Children in Care Council called R:Vue.
- If you are unhappy and feel no one is listening you can talk to your social worker, social workers manager or Debbie Mitchell the Participation Officer.
- We will draw up an education plan to encourage you to have high ambitions and help you get the best results you can.
- Your social worker will arrange to see you outside of school hours unless something important makes this necessary.
- We will help you if you fall behind with your studies, providing extra support to you if you need it.
- We will encourage and support you to go to university.
- We will work with you to explore all possible options for work when you leave education. This could include apprenticeships.

Your Corporate Parents want to see you thrive and do well. If there are other ways we can do this please let us know you can ring or text **Debbie Mitchell** our Participation officer on **07554 114577**