

# Stockton-on-Tees commitments to all children in our care and care leavers



These commitments set out how we support you as children in our care and care leavers in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. We are committed to listening to you, championing you and keeping you safer in everything we do.

This means we will:

- Ask you for your views and let you know what we have done as a result of them
- Involve you in decisions that are made about you and your life so we better understand your needs and what makes you happy
- Make sure you know your rights and entitlements and what support you can expect
- Support you to feel safer and be able to live your life free from harm and abuse

These are our commitments to you. We will work with people from other organisations in Stockton-on-Tees to help us do this:

## A safe and stable home

- Make sure you live in a safe place where you are well cared for
- Check that you are happy and settled and getting good care
- When you are an adult and ready to live independently, we will help find you the right home

## Positive relationships and belonging

- Support you to be in contact with the people who matter to you the most, especially family and friends
- Help you understand your life story
- Support you with your identity including culture, faith, sexuality, disability and gender identity
- Help you build positive relationships which will support you when you are an adult

## Listening

- Ask you for your views and make sure there are lots of ways for you to give them – speaking, writing, drawing – however you choose to
- Always take your views into consideration when decisions are being made about you and if we can't do what you have asked, explain why
- Listen to your suggestions about how to improve the services that children and young people receive

## Opportunities to achieve and progress

- Help you to learn in the right school for you
- Support you to feel happy and settled at school so you can do your best
- Help you access work and learning opportunities that are right for you
- Celebrate your achievements and successes with you. We are proud of you

## Good health and wellbeing

- Help you to have good mental and physical health by supporting you to access health care services
- Support you to be fit and active by promoting opportunities for you to play, have a hobby and play a sport
- Help you have someone to talk to who you trust and who can help with managing feelings and emotions

## Ready for independence

- Help you to apply for college, apprenticeships, university or jobs – and help you to decide what is the right path for you
- Support you to develop living skills like cooking, washing, ironing and managing your money
- Be there for you if you make a mistake and help you get back on track
- Be ambitious for you and support you

## Good Corporate Parents

As well as our commitments to you **we promise** that wherever possible we will do as much as we can to make sure you are not disadvantaged as a result of you being in care. We will go the extra mile to try and give you the best support available that will help you achieve your goals in life, feel safe, know that someone is there for you and for you to have a bright future. We will also ask our partners to help us with this.