

3

Support

School,
College,
Learning

The
Dudley
Pledge

5

Employment,
Work,
Training

4

Leisure,
Free- time,
Hobbies

6

Contact,
Family/
Friends

7

Health and
Well-being

1

Where
you live
with
whom

1. Where You Live And Who You Live With

We want you to live in a placement where you feel loved, safe and happy.

In order for this to happen we will ensure:

- you have explanations about why you are in care and information about your background
- you have contact with family and friends, unless to do so would cause harm you
- you have a social worker and a copy of your care plan and placement plan
- you are involved in where you go to live and have information about where you are going to live and why
- you are prepared and given information if you need to move to new placement.
- we ask you about how things are and seek your views
- that we will keep things that are important to you safe
- when you move, these things that are important to you are able to go with you – in a nice big bag **not** a black plastic one!!

2. School/College/Learning

We want you to enjoy learning and do as well as you are able to.

In order to do this we will ensure- according to your age that:

- you have a place in a school or college that is able to provide you with the right kind of education
- you have a personal education plan that identifies what you need
- that there is a teacher in school who will support you in school
- that you get additional help and support in order to do your school/college work
- you are supported to travel independently to school wherever possible
- if you are being bullied or teased at school about being in care you have a teacher who will help you
- you are encouraged to take part in school holidays, clubs, trips and that consent for these will be sorted quickly
- you don't have to change the school you are at unless it is absolutely necessary and we would definitely not want you to change school in Year 10/11
- If for any reason you are unable to attend school you are provided with appropriate alternative education.
- You are able to attend a nursery that will provide you with the right kind of early years support.

3. Support

We want you to feel listened to and that there are people who are there for you and will answer your questions.

In order to do this we will ensure:

- you have a social worker who will visit you and talk with you privately, somewhere where you feel comfortable
- you have carers who are able to talk to you about things and help you to develop knowledge and skills for when you leave care
- you are able to contact an independent person if you need support to talk about something that you are unhappy about. This person is called an advocate
- you have an Independent Reviewing Officer who will make sure that your care plan is being followed
- that you are provided with opportunities to get together with other children in care to discuss things important to you and share things in common to you and have fun!!

4. Leisure, Hobbies, Free Time

We want you to have opportunities to develop your talents, have fun and take part in various hobbies and activities.

To do this we will ensure that:

- you can swim at least 25 metres?
- You are encouraged and supported to be involved in clubs and activities
- you are able to have an options plus and leisure card that gives you access to a range of free activities provided by Dudley Sport and Leisure
- you have an opportunity to play a musical instrument
- money will be available to support you in these activities and buy essential equipment where necessary
- carers support you and provide you with information about what is available in your area and encourage you to attend
- opportunities are provided for you to try out new things

5. Education, Employment and Training

We want you to be able to take up further education/employment and training once you have left school.

In order for this to happen we will ensure:

- you are able to participate in work experience opportunities and try different things
- that you are supported by your carers and have all the necessary information about the different things options available
- that you are able to have driving lessons when appropriate
- that you are provided with the things you need to do your course/help/studies/work
- that you are able to have someone available to your to offer support and advice especially financial advice

6. Family and Friends

We want you to have up to date information about your family, friends and carers whenever possible.

In order for this to happen we will ensure:

- that your view about this are listened to and taken seriously
- in particular about how, when and where you have contact with family
- that if you can't have contact for whatever reason we will make sure that you are told why and understand the reasons for this
- that you are able to keep in contact with your friends whilst in care
- that you can invite them back to where you are living and stay overnight with their family if appropriate
- that your social worker gives you news about your family on a regular basis where possible

7. Health and Well-being

We want you to be as healthy and well and feel good about yourself as you possible can.

In order to ensure this we will:

- provide you with access to regular health and dental assessments and checks
- register you with a GP, local dentist
- arrange for you to be cared for by individuals who are able to support you with this and provide information where necessary
- support you by providing access to specialist health services should you need them
- make sure you have opportunities to be involved in activities that you enjoy and help you to build confidence in yourself
- provide a trusted person who you can talk to
- make sure that you know how to keep yourself safe from harm both at home/where you live and in the community