

This is the Southend Children's Partnership
**Pledge
to
Looked after Children**

This document is
published by Southend-on-Sea Borough
Council.

A summary of this leaflet can be translated
into alternative languages and can be
provided in other formats. Please phone
Specialist Services on 01702 215007

www.southend.gov.uk

February 2011



Southend Children's Partnership

Our promise to you

We will spend time with you and listen to you.

We will visit you at least every six weeks or we will tell you if this will be more often or less often at your review.



We will come to see you where you are living.



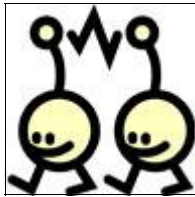
We will try very hard to visit you when we say we will. We will phone your foster carer to tell you if we can't and then we will come and see you as soon as we can.



We will ask you what you want

We will ask you what you think before making decisions about you. If we cannot do what you would like we will explain why to you.

We will always try and keep brothers and sisters together when possible. If we think this is not a good idea we will explain this to you.



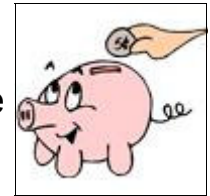
We know you want to carry on seeing your families and friends while you are in care. If a Court says how this must happen our job is to arrange this for you. We will also listen to what you ask for and do our best to do it. If we cannot, for example if a Court says we can't we will tell you this and say why.



When you leave care

When you are older we want you to be the best you can be. We want you to go to college and find a job you enjoy.

We will make sure you have a bank account. We will encourage you to be sensible with your money and continue to save for the future.



We will make sure you have a passport. If this is not possible we will explain the reasons why.

We will talk to you about what you would like for your future, and help you to plan for this, whether you are going to university, into training or into work.



Make a difference! We want you to know what you think!

We will make sure you know your rights and what we should be doing for you.

If you do not feel your views are being heard we will tell you how you can get an advocate who will speak up for you. We will also tell you how you can make a complaint if you need to.



National Youth Advocacy Service

If you would like someone independent from us to visit you, listen to you, support you and give advice if needed we will arrange this for you.

At least every 6 months we will look at how you are getting on and whether we need to make any changes to your care plan. You will have an Independent Reviewing Officer who will make sure things are being done properly and in your best interests.

We want you to be fit and healthy

We will help you talk to your doctor and dentist and we will explain to them what we think you need and what your problems are. If you



move to live with another foster carer we will tell your doctor and dentist.

If you are unwell or have any problems we will get you all the help you need.

We will tell your foster carers things they need to know about your health, like about anything you are allergic to.

We will make sure you have the right vaccinations as you grow up and we will encourage you to have your health assessments and dentist check ups every year. If you are at school you can talk to your school nurse but we have nurses just for our looked after children who will help you if they can.



We want you to feel safe

We know that we are all different in terms of where we grew up and we know that we all need different things to feel happy and safe. We want you to feel safe with other people, at school and where you live. If you ever feel unsafe we will make sure you know where to go for help.

We will make sure your foster carers know how to keep you happy and healthy.



If you are happy where you are living we won't move you, unless there is a problem. We will also try and keep you with the same social worker for as long as possible.



If you do have to move, we'll give you all the information we can about your new home and your new carers.

We want you to get the most out of life

Before you are old enough to go to school we will make sure you can go to nursery so you can enjoy playing with other children.

We want you to do well at school and we will work with your teachers and make sure you have extra help if you need it.

We want you to enjoy your spare time in a healthy way. We can arrange free use of the facilities at some of the leisure centres in Southend, which includes swimming.



We will help you to stay in touch with your friends.

