



# CHILDREN'S PLEDGE

# Support You To Achieve Your Goals In Life

## *We promise to...*

- Provide you with support, guidance, and the resources to help you achieve your goals in life and communicate your goals to your Local Authority.
- Support you to attend the best school, college, university, or training course possible. We will ensure you have the help and support you need for your in education and support you to find a job when you leave school.
- Celebrate your successes and achievements

## **Keep Our Promises**

We will work in partnership with others to make sure we are keeping all of our promises. Please tell us how you think we are doing with these promises by sending your comments to [info@affinityfostering.com](mailto:info@affinityfostering.com)

# Involve You In Decisions That Effect Your Life

## *We promise to...*

- Encourage and support you to make decisions about your life
- Let you know about decisions made about you and explain things in a way which you understand (especially if we can not do what you like).
- Find a home that suits you and can best meet your needs
- Support you to move on from care to get the best accommodation that meets your needs

# Support Network

## ***We promise to...***

- Help you keep in contact with family, friends and other people who are important to you, and explain to you why you can not keep in touch with your family, friends and other people, if this is not allowed.
- Make sure you have a named social worker and information on how to contact them.
- Make sure you know how to get an independent advocate, such as a worker from the Children's Right Services, who will listen to you and support you to get things stopped or changed.
- Have a designated teacher in every school to help you and to make sure they know your name.

# Stay Healthy

## ***We promise to...***

- Make sure you are registered with a doctor, optician, and dentist, and make sure you have regular access to them.
- Make sure you have a nurse that works with looked after children and young people, and provide you with professional health services, such as mental health or sexual health, and support you to use these services.
- Support and encourage you to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, take part in leisure activities, and enjoy a healthy diet.

# Help You Stay Safe

## *We promise to...*

- Give you information and advice about staying safe and guide, support, and encourage you to make the right decisions to stay safe.
- Tell you who you can contact in an emergency.
- Work with all professionals involved and your foster carers to ensure that you feel safe and remain safe.

# Listen To What You Have To Say

## *We promise to...*

- Listen to you and try, as much as possible, to meet your needs.
- Give you all the information you need to make a complaint, and deal with your complaint as fairly as possible.
- Advocate for you on your behalf and ensure that your views are heard and taken into consideration.

# Leaving Care

Leaving home can be an exciting time for any young person. Most young people have hopes and fears about leaving home.

Your Social Worker and Foster Carers should help you to prepare for when you leave care and live independently.

This might mean you'll learn practical skills such as cooking, washing and budgeting, as well as helping you develop self-confidence, and make and maintain links in your community or with your family.

It is important to think about your future before you turn 16.

You can talk about it with your Foster Carers and Social Workers so you can make informed choices and realistic decisions about your future. It is important that you feel ready to leave care. You do not have to leave once you are 18 and we can explore you remaining in the home under Staying Put, if this is considered appropriate and you wish to do so.






# After Care Support

The Local Authority's responsibilities towards you do not end when you leave care. Most Local Authorities have a specialist after care team that provides services for young people at various stages of the leaving care process. This service can offer support, advice and assistance, as well as helping you make the transition from care to independence.

The specialist after care team's work focuses on leaving care. This includes things like employment, training and education, housing and accommodation, welfare rights and benefits advice, and advocacy and health. Focusing on these areas means you are well informed about issues that are important to you.





# **Contact**

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