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# Kensington and Chelsea pledge

## What is the Kensington and Chelsea pledge for care leavers and young people in care?

We have made several promises to you and this leaflet will tell you what they are.

### **I have been promised things before; promises can be broken!**

We are writing our promises down so you will know what we should be doing. You can use this information to make sure that you are being treated fairly. There is a number on the back of this leaflet that you can call if you feel any of these promises are being broken.

The London pledge is a set of promises that all boroughs in London have agreed to deliver for care leavers and young people in care. The full document can be accessed at [www.younglondonmatters.org](http://www.younglondonmatters.org).

This leaflet tells you about some of the promises Kensington and Chelsea made.

# Fit and healthy

It's important to us that every child leads a healthy and happy life.

Here's how our pledge will help keep you in great shape.

① You will have a specialist nurse to help you with any health problems and make sure your carers are keeping you healthy.

② You will have an expert in emotional well-being who will make sure either you or your carers can get help if you are finding it hard to cope.

③ There will be a life coach in our children's homes who can help you learn skills to cope with difficulties.



# Safe from harm

You should feel safe with the people around you and in the place that you live. If you feel threatened or are at risk, we'll make sure that you know where to go for help and that your carers/social workers do all they can to protect you.

① We will not report you missing to the police, as long as we know where you are and are reassured that you are safe.

② You will have a person who is not your carer or social worker to help you if you are not happy with something and need help to complain.

③ We will only change your social worker when we have consulted with you and it is either in your best interest, or absolutely necessary to do so.

④ If your social worker is away from the office, you will be given the name of another worker as a point of contact to avoid you having to speak with a number of different people you don't know.

# Enjoy and achieve

Being in care isn't just about staying safe; we want you to be able to feel positive about your future and get the most out of life.

## Enjoy

- ① If you are aged between 16 to 21 you will get a card that entitles you to free swimming, gym and other sports activities in our leisure centres.

## Achieve

- ① You will have the support of a specialist head teacher and teaching staff (virtual school) to make sure that you get the best help to do well in your education or training.

- ① If you are in secondary school, you will get a free netbook and dongle to use for your education and access the internet.



# Economic well-being

This means not only achieving your dreams and ambitions, but enjoying yourself too.

We know it can be hard for young people leaving care and you will continue to need a lot of help – even when you become an adult. We want to make sure you have enough money to live on until you are able to earn enough to manage on your own.

## Show me the money

- ① If you were born before 1 September 2002 and have been in care for 12 months, we will open up a long-term savings account and put £100 per year in for you. You will be able to get this when you are 18.
- ② If you have a children's trust fund account, we will make sure it is managed carefully.
- ③ If you change placement, we will make sure you have proper bags or suitcases to put your things in.

# Positive contribution

Your views and feelings are important to us and we will make sure you are able to be involved in decisions that affect your life. We know that when you can affect what happens to you by being listened to, you will learn to make positive decisions.

① We will establish a website for Looked After Children (LAC) and care leavers. This will be designed involving young people and will give you information about all the extra help you can get if you are in care.

② If you are going into foster care or one of our children's homes, you will be given photos and information about the home and family so you know what to expect.

③ You will not miss out on holidays because you do not have a passport or travel document. (Provided you are entitled to these documents).

④ We will help you get a provisional driving licence when you are 17.



Our pledge is for young people and was designed with the help of young people to make a real difference to real lives.

If you feel that our promises are not being kept or are unhappy with how you are being supported you can get help from the Children's Advocacy Officer on **020 7854 5858** or **07896 272181**.

For the latest news about our promises, go to **[www.kccentral@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:www.kccentral@rbkc.gov.uk)**.

