

# Children in Care and Care Leavers' Charter

The Isle of Wight Council has a responsibility to children and young people in its care and to its care leavers. This responsibility is represented by the term "Corporate Parenting": The Isle of Wight Council is the "Corporate Parent" for all children and young people in its care and its care leavers. Because of this responsibility, the Isle of Wight Council make the commitments below.

**We will ensure that all children and young people in and leaving our care have the right home and support to keep them safe and well and to help them grow into happy, healthy, successful and fulfilled young adults who are optimistic about their future.**

## Commitments to children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will treat all our children and young people with respect and with regard to their age and understanding.
- We will give our children and young people time and help them understand their circumstances.
- We will make sure they know about the advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us.
- We will listen to our children and young people and involve them in planning for their care.
- We will keep our children and young people safe and well by:
  - Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible.
  - Making sure that this home is stable and keeps them safe
  - Giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible.
- We will enable our children and young people to enjoy themselves.
- We will assist them to achieve at school and elsewhere to the very best of their ability.
- We know that a change of home, carer, social worker or school can easily cause problems for a child or young person so we promise to do all we can to prevent such changes unless they are absolutely necessary to keep the child or young person safe and well.
- We will make sure that a child or young person stays in touch with their birth family and friends as much as possible, considering their safety and wellbeing.
- We will help our children and young people to plan for and achieve a successful journey into independent adulthood.
- We will ensure that all our children and young people – and the adults working for them – know about these promises.

## Commitments concerning children and young people in care and care leavers

- We will make sure that the Isle of Wight Council is the best Corporate Parent it can be.
- We will continue to offer and improve the opportunities available to them during their childhood and in turn support them through education (up to 25) to enable them to become successful and fully independent adults.
- We will ensure that everyone who shares our responsibility to children and young people in care and care leavers helps us to keep these promises.
- When there are changes to the law or other things that affect the lives of children and young people in and leaving our care, everyone involved – Isle of Wight Council and its partners – will respond together, for the benefit of our children and young people.
- We will let children, young people and everyone else concerned with these commitments know how well we are keeping them by reporting them regularly.