

# Children in care pledge for Torbay



We would like to thank the Children in Care Council for their time telling us what is important to them, what their experiences have been, and what they would like to happen for themselves and other young people in care and leaving care. This group meets weekly and can be contacted through [CICC@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:CICC@torbay.gov.uk)

This document can be made available in other languages and formats. For more information telephone 01803 208100.

Torbay Council promise to help, support, stand by and alongside children looked after to get the very best outcomes for each and every child.

This Pledge has been developed by children in care and support staff working through what is really important and what will make a difference. Together, we have thought about the things that are needed to stop children in care from feeling different or disadvantaged. This has been

turned into a list with headings.

Torbay Council has responded to the list with promises that they will keep.

The council will review this document every year with the Children in Care Council to ensure it remains up to date and relevant.

The next review will be June 2015.

# Social workers & staff/ corporate parents

We want you to have training to work with us

We want you to be understanding and kind

We would like to get to know you better and trust you

Let us choose who works with us (people and organisations)

Don't put us down

Don't let us down

Listen to us and involve us in decisions about our lives

Give support when we get into trouble or do things wrong.



## Torbay Council promises

To provide a qualified social worker for every person in care. Your social worker will get to know you, listen to you and include your views in your planning. He or she will treat you with respect and understanding.

They will support you with the right service for your needs and age.

They will be honest with you about decisions that they take.

# Being in care

We want to see the Care Plan before the review but we want help understanding it!

Please use language we understand and explain what things are.

We want to know who the people are in our reviews and who is involved with us before we turn up.

We don't want social workers or carers to tell us we will have to move if we misbehave.

We want to stay where we are happy and we like stability.

We want to know that we won't have to move from our carers unless there is good reason and we want to be able to say if we don't feel good with our carers and want to move.

If we don't like decisions you make, we need easier access to advocates and we need to know exactly how to contact them.

## Torbay Council promises

You can have time before the review to make sure you have your say.

Your social worker will listen to your views about where and when to have reviews and who comes to them.

You will have a place to live with carers who will meet your needs.

You will be given an information pack and your social worker will go through it with you giving you names and numbers to contact if you have concerns or you are worried or just need to talk.

They will try their best to help you stay in your foster home or care placement where you are happy.

They will support you with the right service for your need and age.

They will make sure there is an advocate for you if you want this.

# Families, friendships, school and social life

We would like contact with our families arranged in advance and to fit around other things we would like to do.

We want to be allowed to stay with friends or go away with friends because they are important to us.

We want you to respect our relationships with our families.

We want to be able to take part in activities if we want.

We want you to trust us to do stuff on our own and not over-protect us.

We don't want to move schools if we like it and our friends are there.

## Torbay Council promises

They will make sure they plan your meetings in advance and tell you.

They will help you have planned contact with your family unless there are good reasons why you can't, like your safety. They will explain this.

They will help you take part in things and they will provide a youth worker to support you if you need this.

They will talk to you about your own safety planning so that you can take care of yourself as much as possible.

They will work closely with your school and will not move you without good reason.

# Support and Safety

We want to be safe and we need you to work with us to agree what safe looks like for us and why.

Foster carers, teachers, youth workers, schools and family make us feel safe as it stops us being alone.

We want to be protected from bullies and people that want to fight us.

We want to know there is someone we can talk to about our feelings/stuff we need to get off our chests.

We want to feel supported and loved.

We would like to feel more like part of a foster carer's family.

We need access to services to help if we are doing things that aren't healthy for us.

You need to make sure we understand how to look after ourselves as we are growing up so we can live on our own eventually.

We want help and support about the way we feel and see ourselves.

## Torbay Council promises

They will talk to you about your own safety planning so that you can take care of yourself as much as possible.

You will have a plan that guides your time in school – this is called a PEP (Personal Education Plan).

They will help you to easily access the full range of health opportunities and you will have a Personal Health Plan.

They will listen to you and take any bullying seriously, helping you and giving you support.

They will work with you and your foster carer or care placement to make it the best

# Get in touch with us

Use this space to write down the details of your Social Worker and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).

Social Worker:

Name:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Independent Reviewing Officer:

Name:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

