

# Lancashire county pledge for looked after children

## Rights, responsibilities and participation

We want people to have high expectations of us.  
We will support you in school and help you catch up if you fall behind. We will also make sure you know about support available when you enter further and higher education. We will celebrate your success with an annual event.

We want to get a good start in adult life.  
We will make sure you know about the financial support and other entitlements available when you leave care and support you into employment.

We should always be on the radar.  
We will make sure to involve you in decisions that affect you. If you have a complaint an advocacy service will support you.

We should have at least one adult to form a long term trusting relationship with us and act as a role model.  
As well as your named worker and teacher, we also have plans to set up a mentoring scheme.

We would like the CICC representative to continue promoting participation and representing the views of children who are looked after to decision makers. We would also like them to be trained to review services. We are committed to ensuring that young people are involved in reviewing services.

We want to be included in decisions.  
We will involve you in decisions which affect you and take account of your views on the services you receive. You will be involved in regular reviews.

There should be a participation strategy with a number of ways to enable us to actively participate in service decisions and delivery. This should be made known to all children looked after.  
A participation strategy is being developed in consultation with young people.

We want to be able to contact our birth family, if it is appropriate.  
We will discuss family contact with you as part of the care planning arrangements

We should be supported to develop skills and confidence to enable us to actively participate in a variety of ways.  
We will make sure you are supported to take part in positive leisure activities and through other ways to increase your confidence.

We want to be healthy.  
We will make sure you have regular assessments of your health and access to health information.

## Reviews and meetings

We want people to acknowledge us in meetings.  
We will make sure that we listen to your views and opinions in meetings, use language which you will understand and talk to you directly.

There should be a smaller number of people at our review meetings.  
We will only include those people necessary to the meeting.

We should be given feedback after the meeting in a way we understand.  
We will give you clear, understandable feedback on how you felt the meeting went.

We should be in charge of who is at our review meetings and should be able to invite a Children's Rights worker if we want one.  
You have the right to invite a Children's Rights worker to your meetings but it will not always be possible for you to choose who is there. An Independent Reviewing Officer will ensure your rights are upheld.

We should be told beforehand what the meeting is about and have the implications of any decisions explained to us so we can make an informed decision.  
We will make sure you have the right information at the right time and presented in a way that you can understand. We will try to avoid using jargon and abbreviations and will ask for your feedback on the information we give you to make sure it is always clear and understandable.

## Placements

We have a right to feel safe. Move us or other young people quickly when things are going wrong for us, for example if we are being bullied.  
Your individual needs will be assessed and an up-to-date care plan will be produced. We'll do our best to ensure your placement is the safest and most secure for you and discuss options if you are having problems.

We should be involved in meetings to talk about new people who might be moving in to our placement.  
We will always seek to involve you in decisions concerning you.

Social workers should have an ongoing relationship with us and our carers so that we can be supported quickly if things start to go wrong.

You will have a named worker, qualified social worker and know how to contact them. Sometimes it may be necessary to have to change your worker but we will tell you when this change has to occur and why. You will also have a named teacher to support you in school. There will be other people you can contact if you need extra support, advice or guidance. We will let you know what other support is available.

We should have at least three choices for any new placement.  
We will ensure you have the most possible choices about any new placements, although it would not be possible to guarantee three.

## Training and development

We should have support to identify our perfect placement and receive information about our options, including, where possible, visits to those options.  
We will provide you with the information you need to make an informed choice about your placement.

Carers should receive a full range of training, in areas including active participation, equality and diversity, child development, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and emotional health and well being.  
We will make sure that carers are trained and supervised to provide you with good quality care taking account of your individual needs. We will also recognise your ethnic and cultural needs.