

# Pledge to those children and young people looked after by Herefordshire Council

Matthew Age 5



We know that nobody chooses to be in care and that it isn't always easy. We know that it can bring extra problems and uncertainties. If you are to do well, be successful and be able to do the things you want to do, it is important that we (all those who work with and for you) get it right.

This pledge – those things we promise to do our absolute best to do for you – has been developed after listening to groups of young people looked after by Herefordshire Council. The three themes you told us were important to make you succeed are:

- You listen to me
- You know who I am
- You support me when I need it



## You listen to me

### We will:

1. Listen to you and make sure what you say makes a difference
2. Help you understand the position you are in
3. Give you real choices when making plans for your future
4. Make sure you have someone who you decide to talk to
5. Decide with you how and who is best to give you the information you need

### You will know we have done this because

1. You will be involved in developing your plan
2. You will be able to see that we have responded to what you say
3. We will do what we say and keep promises made to you
4. We will tell you if we can't do something you ask us to

## You know me

### We will:

1. Support you in developing a range of interests and activities outside school
2. Help you recognise your skills and abilities and develop a plan to get the most out of your life, particularly as you get older and leave school
3. Make sure you have an allocated social worker and that you know how to contact them at all times
4. Support you to maintain contact with friends and Family who you want to see
5. Recognise your achievements and important events in your life

### You will know we have done this because

1. You will have had the chance to try the different activities you talk about at your LAC Review
2. We will treat you in the way you want us to
3. You will be able to recognise yourself in reports that are written about you



## You support me when I need it

### We will:

1. Be consistent in the things we do for you
2. Make sure you have a school to go to and which will help you do well.
3. Work with your school to help you make progress and catch up if you fall behind
4. Do our best not to move you out of a school you are happy in
5. Make sure you have someone you choose to talk to
6. Work with you to make sure you have all the information you need to make choices about education and work

### You will know we have done this because

1. You will have a small number of people involved in your care
2. You will not move when you are settled and happy
3. You will leave school knowing where you are going to next
4. You will know what your choices are and how to make good decisions.

## What will happen for me?

1. I will have had the chance to express my views on issues related to looked after children in Herefordshire and will know I have been listened to
2. My talents (academic, sporting or creative) will have been celebrated – at school or outside
3. I will have taken part in a public event – either sports, dance, concert or visual arts
4. I will have taken part in a play, musical or reading that involves either acting, speaking or helping with the productions
5. I will have been on an educational visit or overnight stay
6. I will have the opportunity to help others through voluntary activities
7. I will have been to an artistic or sporting event at a major venue
8. I will have the opportunity to learn about and understand other cultures and faiths
9. I will have planned, delivered and evaluated a project from beginning to end
10. I will have experienced cutting-edge science and technology

