



Cheshire East

TOGETHER for Children and Young People

Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young

Our Pledges to Cared for Children and Care Leavers 2022-26



Pledge One - We will care for our cared for children and care leavers as any good parent would

Feedback from our children and young people:

Children and young people told us that they don't like the word corporate as it's too clinical. We have updated the name of this pledge to reflect this. Children and young people told us that support from their PA (personal advisor) and Social Worker can make a big difference to their life, things like helping them to get to college and appointments and knowing when they need this support.

What are our priorities:

Staff and elected members will understand their responsibilities and be ambitious in their roles to support cared for children and care leavers, they will advocate and champion their needs in everything they do. We will strive to ensure that the wider community shares our understanding and offers support wherever possible.

We will know ourselves and the needs of our cared for children and care leavers well and design and deliver services that meet these needs. We will always work TOGETHER with children and young people when developing and reviewing services.

Decisions about children and young people's lives, and the services that support them, will be made with them and for them. We will always value their views, where we can't act on a child or young person's view or follow their wishes, we will always explain why.

Pledge Two: We will improve education, employment, and training outcomes

Feedback from our children and young people:

A Care Leavers survey was conducted during October and November 2021. 76 completed surveys were received in total, 90.07% of young people told us that they know how to access education, employment, or training. Children and young people also told us about the importance of being able to stay in the same school when going into foster care.

What are our priorities:

We will have high aspirations for every child and young person and will help them to achieve their ambitions, including using opportunities in the 'family business' and our contacts so that they can be happy and successful in their education, training and employment

Every child and young person will have an education plan that is targeted to enable them to reach their full potential

We will strive to that ensure that every child and young person will have access to consistent, high quality, well matched, opportunities in education, training, and employment.

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Pledge Three: We will be truly aspirational to give all children and young people a forever home and to keep them safe.

Feedback from our children and young people:

Children and young people told us that they don't like the word permanence as it's too clinical. We have changed this pledge to reflect this.

What are our priorities:

We will strive to ensure that every child and young person will have the opportunity to live in a good, safe home locally, either with their family or in another long-term home. All decisions will be made and reviewed with them, without delay.

We will respect those people who are important to our children and young people and make sure that these safe relationships are sustained.

We will keep children and young people safe.

Pledge Four: We will improve health and wellbeing outcomes

Feedback from our children and young people:

The Cared for survey was conducted from 22nd January 2021 until 12th March 2021, 87.34% of young people stated that they have someone that they can talk to if they have any health concerns. 78.70% of care leavers told us they feel well informed of how to make good choices regarding their health, and the local services to help them.

What are our priorities:

We are committed to understanding the health needs of our children and young people as early as possible and to ensure they are given the highest priority in every service.

We will ensure that practitioners understand and meet the diverse health needs of our children and young people, including those with health inequalities faced by race, ethnicity, ability and disability and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

We have ambition to ensure that we further improve responses to children and young people in relation to having their health needs met.

We will equip our children and young people to have high aspirations for their own health and wellbeing.

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Pledge Five: We will prepare young people for adulthood

Feedback from our children and young people:

Young people told us it's important that they are supported to be able to make important decisions ahead of time, around finance and housing to help them feel comfortable, safe and secure when they leave care. 85.20% of care leavers told us that they feel in control of the decisions that affect their life.

What are our priorities:

We will support young people early with the skills needed to prepare for their future through access to a range of good quality services.

We will be a consistent guide for our young people. We will celebrate their successes and support them when things don't go well.

We will respect our care leavers as young adults and adapt our relationships to their needs.

Pledge Six: We will work TOGETHER with children and young people

Feedback from our children and young people:

Children and young people have told us that the most important thing we can do is listen to them, we have developed an additional pledge to focus solely on participation to ensure that children and young people are always at the heart of everything we do.

What are our priorities:

We will work TOGETHER with children and young people in all that we do.

We will work to make sure that participation is at the heart of everything that our staff, partners, and elected members do.

Cared for children and care leavers will be empowered to make decisions that affect their lives.

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