



BARKING & DAGENHAM LEAVING CARE PLEDGE / PROMISE



**LEARN 2 LIVE TEAM
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This document sets out minimum standards for leaving services. The standards specify the arrangements, services and procedures that need to be in place and implemented to ensure the delivery of quality services for young people leaving care.

These standards apply to all other agencies commissioned by a Children's Services to deliver leaving and after care services. It is expected that all 16+ services and supporting agencies will strive to exceed these minimum standards. They also establish a framework for best practice in leaving care that work with or have significant involvement with young people leaving care.

The Pledge is a set of promises made by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and Young Care Leavers.

All adults who work for and with the Council have a responsibility to make sure that you are safe, healthy and achieving your goals. This pledge spells out how we promise to help. We promise to do our best to help you achieve your full potential. We are committed to involving you in any decisions that affect your life, asking you what you think, listening to you and taking your views into account. This is part of the local authority's commitment to making sure that all young people are valued in every aspect of their life and in the life of their community.

We welcome your feedback on the Pledge and are very interested in hearing your views, whether they are positive or negative. If you wish to share your experiences please get in touch with either your allocated worker or one of the service managers.

You can also make known your views on how we are performing on the Pledge during your review. If you wish to make a complaint you can either raise an issue with your carer, your allocated worker, your teacher, tutor, independent visitor or an advocate, or you can complain directly to the Council by calling the Children and Young People Complaints Team.

THE PLEDGE

The principles underpinning how we will work with you

Dignity and Respect

The uniqueness of individuals is acknowledged and each young person is treated with respect.

Independence

Young people have as much control as possible over decisions which affect their lives whilst being safeguarded against unacceptable risks.

Equality and Diversity

Young people are treated equally regardless of their legal status, disability, gender, sexual preference, race, cultural and religious identity. All services delivered by L2L are within a framework of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

Fulfilment

Young people are enabled to lead full and purposeful lives in order that their ability and potential can be realised.

Safeguarding

Young people are safeguarded and have stability in all aspects of the services which are being delivered to them and feel free from exploitation, neglect and / or abuse.

Privacy

Young people have the right to privacy and should be free from unnecessary intrusion into their lives. There is a balance struck between the considerations of the young person's safety and that of others.

Confidentiality

Young people know that information about them is managed appropriately and will only be disclosed to others when it is assessed as being in the best interests of the young person's welfare or for the protection of others. Everyone involved in the delivery of the service respects confidential matters

Partnership

Young people are central to informing and shaping the type and range of services that are available to them and are fully engaged in decision making processes about their care and support packages.

Collaboration

Young people have their assessed needs met through access to comprehensive leaving care services which are developed and provided through collaborative working with a range of other statutory, voluntary, community and independent agencies.

Participation

Young people will be given opportunities to express their views about the service they are receiving and encouraged to assist in shaping the service throughout their period of being a care leaver.

Firm commitments we will make to you

Leaving Care Grants (accommodation setting up allowance)

Young people that qualify will receive a full Leaving Grant as agreed and set by the Local Authority presently totalling £2000.00.

Communication help & support

Young people will be given a direct contact mobile number and office number of their allocated worker. In the absence of the worker young people can access our resource room services and be assisted by a duty worker without an appointment.

Education Employment Training

Young people will have the option to meet with the careers advisor and discuss career/employment pathways.

Choice

Young people are offered the opportunity to select independently from a range of options based on information contained within their Pathway Plan, which is clear and accurate and updated every six months.

Enjoy & Achieve

Young people will be encouraged to take part in activities within the community and supported financially when taking part in the Leaving Care Service activities.

LEAVING CARE PROMISE

- To make every effort to find out your views. We will tell you if we cannot act on them and why.
- To recognise your achievements and celebrate them annually.
- To assist you to be physically and emotionally well and safe.
- To make sure you know who to contact when you need to talk.
- To do our best to find the right placement for you.
- To do our best to make sure that any changes effecting you are made through consultation.
- To involve you in all aspects of planning your care and support.
- To support you to have contact with the people who are important to you.
- To make sure that you know what you are entitled to as a care leaver.
- To make sure that you know how to complain about anything you are unhappy with and that there is someone to help you to do this.
- To make sure that the workers you come into contact with (like teachers and health professionals) have some understanding of care leavers.
- To provide the best education opportunities we can for you.
- To ensure you have the same opportunities as other young people including taking part in the things you are interested in
- To talk to you about your hopes, dreams and ambitions for the future and not just about further and higher education and/or work.
- To take into account your wishes and feelings regarding any decisions impacting on your life.