The Pledge to
Children in care and care leavers

This is East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Pledge. It is a promise made by the council and its partners to all children and young people in care and to care leavers.

Each year the pledge will be checked to make sure it is working and meeting the needs of everyone involved but most importantly that it makes a real difference to the lives of looked after children and young people and care leavers.
Your health...

We promise that we will...

- make sure you have regular health checks, appointments with a registered doctor, dentist and nurse
- do our best to make sure you always have an adult you can talk to
- offer you support and services on sexual health and support you to make positive choices
- give you the opportunities to develop your personal and social skills so you can look after your own health in the future
- give you help with access to leisure activities that promote and encourage a healthy lifestyle with healthy eating and exercise
Your education and training...

We promise that we will...

- believe in you and what you can achieve and have high aspirations for you
- support you to participate in positive activities that help you increase your confidence and to feel well
- make consent forms as simple as possible so you don’t miss out
- make sure you have the support of a designated teacher who understands your circumstances
- make sure you have a high quality, clear, understandable, up-to-date personal education plan
Your safety...

We promise that we will...

- make sure you know WHY you are in care
- do our best to keep you with your brothers and sisters unless it’s not safe
- allocate you a qualified social worker as soon as you become looked-after and make sure you always know how to contact your social worker (or emergency duty team out of hours)
- make sure you can see your social worker at least once a month if you want to, we’ll try not to change your social worker if it’s not necessary and make sure your social worker speaks to you alone during every visit
- take you seriously if you do request a change of social worker; and if this is not possible explain why not
Your finances...

We promise that we will...

- make sure you get some pocket money and choice about what to do with this
- let you have a say in how your money is managed and teach you about managing money
- make sure before you leave school you are supported to apply for further education, training, an apprenticeship or employment
- provide you with work experience opportunities to develop your CV
- listen to you and offer you services to support your independence when you’re leaving care
Your activities and hobbies...

We promise that we will...

- help you to continue hobbies and friendships from before you came into care, if it is safe to do so
- support your development as an individual by applying for your passport, bank account, national insurance number, and birth certificates, as quickly as possible
- make sure you have access to the Children’s Participation and Rights Team and Children in Care Council (CiCC) so you can understand what your rights are and how you are able to contribute your views to your care planning and services, this is an opportunity to make a real change for yourself and other children in care
- reward your efforts and provide you with an accreditation to mark your participation
- make sure there are regular meetings between senior managers and people who make decisions and the Children in Care Council
Leaving care...

**We promise that we will...**

- do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move into independent living
- provide access to information relating to benefits, budgeting and savings
- value your strengths, gifts and talents and encourage your aspirations
- take time to listen to you, respect, and strive to understand your point of view
- help you push aside limiting barriers by encouraging and supporting you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can
This Pledge is a commitment from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and our partner agencies to children and young people in our care and leaving our care. We have signed up for this voluntarily to make sure all children and young people in care and leaving care have a positive experience and equal opportunities.

ARE WE KEEPING OUR PROMISES TO YOU?

If you feel any part of this pledge is not working for you then you can contact the children’s participation and rights team on (01482) 565560 and we will come out and see you if this is what you want. We can try to find out why this has happened and make sure things change for you.

You have a right to complain if you are unhappy about any of the services you receive from the council. You can talk to anybody you trust or you can contact the Customer Relations Team. You can get support from an advocate at the Children’s Participation and Rights Team to help you make your complaint.

• Children’s Participation and Rights Team: (01482) 565560
• Email: rights4u@eastriding.gov.uk
• Customer Relations Team: (01482) 396422

Director of Children, Families and Schools
Kevin Hall

Head of Children and Young People, Specialist Services
Dr Jackie Lown

Lead Member Children in Care
Councillor Julie Abraham

Head of Children and Young People’s Support and Safeguarding Services
Pam Allen

Virtual School Headteacher for Young People in Care
Nicola Donoghue

Chief Executive, East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Nigel Pearson

Chair, East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Gina Palumbo

Chief Executive, Humber NHS Foundation Trust
David Hill