
To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 27th November 2025

Subject: Children in Care Pledge

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Children's and Education Scrutiny Board (2) on progress made against the pledge for children in care and care leavers.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Children's and Education Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Note the current progress made against the pledge for children in care and care leavers.
 - 2) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 The Pledge for Children in Care and Care Leavers was co-designed with children and young people with care experience, reflecting what matters most to them. The pledge includes seven statements from children and young people, with a responding commitment (or pledge) from Coventry City Council as their corporate parents.
- 3.2 The seven statements and pledges are:
- 1) I want to feel safe and settled= We will work with you to ensure you feel safe and secure where you live
 - 2) I want to be physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy= We will support you to be physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy
 - 3) I want access to services I need. I want services to work together to help me= We will encourage services to work together so that you can access the help you need
 - 4) I want support and better access to education, training, and jobs= We will support you throughout your education/ training and help you prepare for employment
 - 5) I want to be happy and have fun. I want to have opportunities to go to places and try new things. I want to be treated the same as any other young person= All young people deserve to be happy and have fun, we will support you to try new opportunities and visit different places

- 6) I want me social worker to keep me informed. I want worker I can trust, who will answer my questions and sort stuff out for me. I want to be listened to, taken seriously and offered an advocate=All professionals supporting you, will keep you informed and have your best interest at heart. We will treat you with respect, actively listen to you, provide you with the necessary support and guidance you are entitled to, including an advocate when needed
- 7) I want to feel included. My individuality is important to me. I want to be able to explore and express my identity= We value your individuality, support you in expressing and exploring your identity, and ensure you feel included

3.3 The addendum slides (Appendix 1) provide an update against each of the pledge areas, highlighting examples of the work that has been undertaken to meet our commitments to our children and young people in care and leaving care.

Appendix 1: Pledge Progress

Authors:

Hannah Bedford, Family Valued Programme Manager, Children's and Education Services

Angela Whitrick, Strategic Lead, Corporate Parenting & Sufficiency, Children's and Education Services

Contact Details:

hannah.bedford@coventry.gov.uk

angela.whitrick@coventry.gov.uk

References:

<https://becomecharity.org.uk/content/uploads/2025/11/Good-practice-report-by-Become-2025.pdf>

<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/contentassets/0832b8d761aa49a6adb98cf4112b8cfd/expressions-of-self-report.pdf>