



Hillingdon's Charter and Commitment to Care Leavers

Hillingdon Council has a responsibility to children and young people in its care and to its care leavers. This responsibility is represented by the term "Corporate Parenting".

Hillingdon Council makes these commitments to ensure that all children in our care and care leavers have the support to grow into healthy, happy and successful young adults

Commitments to young people in care and care leavers.

- We will treat young people with respect and celebrate their identity as an individual, as a valued member of their community and with regard to their age and understanding.
- We will hold a belief in our young people's potential and a vision for their future, even if they have lost sight of these themselves.
- We will give our young people time and help them understand their circumstances.
- We will make sure they know about advocacy and complaints services in case they want help to have their views heard or are unhappy with us. If we cannot meet their needs, we will try and help them find a service that can.
- We will listen to our young people, work alongside them, involve them in planning for their care and future to prepare them for a successful move into independent living and adulthood. We will inform them about their options and discuss these with them before they move.
- We will keep our young people safe and well by:
 - Seeing that they have the right place to live as quickly as possible

- Giving them the right support to be as healthy as possible
- Doing everything we can to ensure that they are happy and feel safe when they move to independent living

- We will enable our young people to stay in touch with their family and friends as much as a possible, considering their safety and well being, value and support important relationships and help them manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other significant life events.

- We will continue to offer and improve opportunities available to young people and support them through education to enable them to become successful and fully independent adults.

- We will work with all adults in various services to respond to any changes to the law that affect the lives of young people.

- We will do all we can to prevent changes to a social worker, school or placement, unless they are absolutely necessary to keep a young person safe and well.

- We will make sure that we give young people the information that they need and are entitled to, at every stage in their move towards adulthood and help to obtain support if other agencies let them down.

- If we don't agree with the young people we will fully explain why.

- We will let young people and everyone else concerned with these commitments know how well we are keeping them by reporting them regularly to Step Up, our Children in Care Council and the Corporate Parenting Board.