

Pledge Commitments / Outcomes

KCC Pledge			
Pledge Commitment	Source	Contribution to Better Outcomes	Additional Estimated Cost pa
1. Sense of belonging			
Provide a placement for you as near as possible to your family and friends	Care Matters proposals (see White Paper pages 60 to 61); The Utting Report, 1997; The Children Act 1989 duties	Promotes safeguarding of LAC; PAFC69 (distance of placement) performance; Contributing to positive identity in children/young people by enabling hem to maintain contact with family and friends (e.g. Gilligan 2001; 2004); Meeting existing KCC Policy on out of authority placements; Provides example of good practice to other local authorities re placing LAC in Kent	£335k
Help you maintain contact with family and/or friends and when this is not possible give you a clear reason why	Children Act 1989 duties. Also linked to commitment above. Contributes to key message of Care Matters re promoting stability (Chapter 3 of White paper)	Promotes safeguarding of LAC; Contributing to positive identity/resilience in children/young people by enabling them to maintain contact with family and friends (Gilligan 2001; 2004 highlights importance of a secure base in promoting resilience); Helps to promote stability of placements (e.g. PAFA1 – placement stability); The commitment indirectly promotes Educational attainment (PAFA2 – GCSE attainment); increased opportunities for sport and leisure activities (Care Matters requirement); increased opportunities for LAC to be rehabilitated home or achieve legal permanence through family/friends (kinship care)	£0
Ensure that your, and where appropriate your parent's, views of the type of carers that you would want are taken into account when choosing your placement and respite care	Young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge); Children Act 1989 principles; Research findings on the benefits of involving children/young people in decision making	Will help to reduce placement instability; contributes to performance on PAFA1 (stability in placements); also contributes indirectly to educational achievement (including PAFA2 (GSCE attainment) and PAFC24 (school absence)); safeguarding and healthy care (ECM) objectives	£0
When making decisions we will take into account your age, background and beliefs, including your ethnic and cultural needs	Children Act 1989 duties; reinforced in Care Matters	Promoting LAC's identity and increased resilience to cope with adversity (e.g. Erikson, 1982). This commitment indirectly supports better outcomes re educational attainment (PAFA2 (GSCE attainment), PAFC24 (school absence), LAA target (key stage results and GSCE attainment); healthy care (ECM) and safeguarding	£0
Arrange for you to get your national insurance number for your 16 th birthday or as soon as possible after being entitled to have one	Young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Necessary for young people 16years or over to obtain employment (supports performance on PAFA4 – NEET); promotes children/young peoples' identity/resilience throuh self esteem and self efficacy (based on research findings by Gilligan 2001); evidence for involvement of children/young people in development of services	£0
Get you a passport by your 16 th birthday if you are legally entitled to have one – sooner if you need one to go on holidays with your carers and take part in school activities	Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Promotes identity; increased opportunities for sports and leisure activities (Care Matters proposal); demonstrates involvement of children/young people in development of services	£8,928

Tell you who your corporate parents are and how you can contact them	Care Matters (see range of proposals focussing on corporate parenting under Chapter 1 of White Paper, specifically pages 22 to 27); Existing DCSF guidance for members on their role as a corporate parent (see KCC guidance document)	Promotes effective corporate parenting and accountability; contributes to evidence that Lead Member and DCS (Graham Badman) are meeting their current and forthcoming legal duties for LAC	£0
2. A consistent adult			
Ensure that you have a named social worker/caseworker and Independent Reviewing Officer and know how you can contact them	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge – see page 22 and 63 and 64 of White Paper re SWs; page 22 and 132 re IROs); Highlighted by young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Promotes safeguarding; helps to prevent LAC drifting in care; indirectly supports LAC placement stability (including PAFA1) through support to carers (based on research findings – e.g. McAuley et al, 2006)	£637,588
Make sure that you have at least one person in your life who you can expect to be around throughout your time in care	Highlighted in Care Matters (White Paper) ; Issue raised by young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge) . Commitment includes focus on provision of Independent Visitors (legal requirement under The Children Act 1989 and emphasised in Care Matters, including new legislation (page 133)	Safeguarding; promoting identity/resilience of LAC (i.e. a secure base – Gilligan 2001; 2004). Indirectly supports better outcomes re placement stability (including PAFA1); educational attainment (e.g. PAFA2 (GCSE attainment); PAFC24 (school absence) and LAA target 3 – key stage results and GCSE attainment); access to sports and leisure opportunities (Care Matters proposal).	£0
3. A good education			
Ensure that you have a place at a school that will enable you to do your best	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 and Chapter 4; issue raised by young people – ie. Upfront Survey (1998); meeting with Children's Champion Board 2005.	Improved educational attainment of LAC and Care Leavers; contributes to a range of government performance targets – e.g. PAFA1 (placement stability); PAFC24 (school absence); PAFA2 (GCSE attainment); PAFA4 (reducing NEET); C81 (reducing offending); contributes to LAA target 3 (key stage results and GCSE attainment); supports healthy care (ECM) agenda for LAC; promotes identity/resilience (i.e. importance of school in promoting resilience – Mortimore, 1995; Quinton and Rutter, 1988); increases opportunities for LAC to achieve legal permanence outside of the LAC system	£0
Make sure that 3 and 4 year old children in care can go to early years education	Care Matters proposal (see page 67 of White Paper); Supports current KCC policy and requirements under Section 52 of The Children Act 2004	As above (except LAA target 3 contribution)	£0
Work with your school and the designated teacher ¹ to help you do your best	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22 and 71; Supports existing expectations under Section 52 of The Children Act 2004	As above	£106k
Provide opportunities and support to pursue your education beyond 16 years, including help going to university if you want to do this	Care Matters Proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22; commitment supports research findings re existing outcomes for care leavers (i.e. only 6% of young people in care continue into HE, compared with 39% of the general school leaver population)	As above – increase in number of KCC care leavers entering HE	£0
Help you catch-up with school work if you fall behind	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22; commitment supports an existing KCC service (Catch-up fund) initiated in 2000 as a result of listening to views of children/young people in care	As above	£0
Expect your carers to take an active interest in your education and make positive links with your school,	Care Matters (chapter 3); Section 52, The Children Act 2004; research findings on role of parental	As above	£0

including attending parent's evenings and other school events	participation on promoting educational attainment (e.g. Cotton and Wikelund, 1989; Fan and Chen, 2000; Flouri and Buchanan, 2004)		
Provide a computer for you if you have been in care for 6 months or more and are aged 11 years or over and, where appropriate, access to the internet	Issue raised by young people (16plus conference 2005) ; Supports existing work undertaken under LAA target 3; Quality Protects initiative; research on benefits of ICT and computers to promote learning (e.g. basic skills – Mann, 1999; BECTA, 2000; Motivation – Peabody, 1996; Sherry, 2001; and establishing life-long learning habits – Schollie, 2001)	As above and promoting access to leisure activities	£111,555
Celebrate your achievements and success	Corporate Parenting Guidance; Research findings on promoting Resilience in Children	As above - particularly promoting identity/resilience	£0
4. Good memories for the future			
Provide at least 4 hours a week of opportunities to pursue hobbies and interests (including sports, art and music)*	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Supports Healthy Care initiative (part of ECM agenda for LAC); promotes placement stability (including PAFA1), identity/resilience; contributes to evidence that lead member and DCS (Graham Badman) are meeting their current and forthcoming legal duties for LAC	£406080
Help you build a photo album of key people in your life and places you have been to while in care	Based on principles of Life Story work with vulnerable children who have experienced instability/change	Promoting a greater sense of identity and belonging (e.g. a secure base – Gilligan 2001; and a sense of identity – Erikson, 1982); promotes effective corporate parenting; indirectly this commitment will help to promote placement stability (including PAFA1) and educational attainment (including GCSE attainment - PAFA2 and school absences - PAFC24)	£6,500
5. Preparation for adulthood			
Make sure that you are consulted about key decisions being made in your life	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989/1991/Children Act 1989 and more recent childcare legislation; The Gillick Judgement 1985 ; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge) ; Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 ; Research findings on benefits on involving children/young people in decision making	Promoting safeguarding (e.g. Butler-Sloss 1988); Decisions for child in all aspects of their lives are more likely to be successfully implemented (e.g. Thoburn, 1992; Hodgson, 1996); promotes greater resilience and sense of identity through promoting self efficacy (e.g. Gilligan, 2001; Henderson, 1995)	£0
Ensure that accommodation provided to young people preparing to leave care is safe and properly supported - with temporary, unsuitable accommodation, being a last resort and used for as little time as possible	Young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge) + issue raised with CCB members in 2005 and at 2005 16plus conference. Specific CYPP area for improvement	Promotes safeguarding; supports APA requirement re provision of suitable accommodation; enables KCC to demonstrate it is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities for Care Leavers as well as LAC	£0
Invest in a savings account for you a sum of £100 for every year you are in care. This money will be available to you on your 18 th birthday*	Care Matters proposal (see Chapter 6, page 112-113) ; Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (Dominic Maxwell, January 2005) recommendation; Issue raised by CCB in 2006.	Helping towards young people successfully leaving care with an adequate level of support from their corporate parent – demonstrates effective corporate parenting by the local authority	£144,000
Up to your 21 st birthday, help you with council tax and losing out on housing benefit as a result of taking part in education, training and low paid employment*	Young people – raised with CCB members in 2005 during an arranged meeting event	Supports PAFA4 performance + issues raised above	£348,300

Help and support you take up appropriate opportunities for training, further education and employment	Care Matters proposal (part of basic element of pledge); Children (leaving care) Act 2000; Performance Assessment Framework target	Supports PAFA4 (reducing NEETs) Helping towards young people successfully leaving care; increase number of care leavers entering HE (i.e. nationally only 6% of young people in care continue into HE, compared with 39% of the general school leaver population)	£0
£1000 for every year you complete in Higher Education or £2000 for the whole period of the course, whichever is the greater	Care Matters proposal (part of basic element of pledge); Supports existing KCC policy; supports existing Children (leaving care) Act 2000 responsibilities	As above	£0
6. Champion needs and interests			
Ensure that you are able to communicate your wishes, feelings and interests – taking into account any disabilities you have	Care Matters (basic element of pledge – see page 22); Children Act 1989 duties	Promoting safeguarding (e.g. Butler-Sloss 1988); Decisions for child in all aspects of their lives are more likely to be successfully implemented (e.g. Thoburn, 1992; Hodgson, 1996); promotes greater resilience and sense of identity through promoting self efficacy (e.g. Gilligan, 2001; Henderson, 1995)	£0
Listen to your wishes and feelings before making decisions that affect you and support you if you need help to do this	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989/1991/Children Act 1989 and more recent childcare legislation; The Gillick Judgement 1985 ; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge); Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 ; Research findings on benefits on involving children/young people in decision making	As above	£0
Work with you and your family to make sure that plans for your care are up to date and meet your educational, health and care needs	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989/1991/Children Act 1989 and more recent childcare legislation; The Gillick Judgement 1985 ; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge); Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 ; Research findings on benefits on involving children/young people in decision making	As above	£0
Make sure that you know how to complain and how to get in touch with Upfront (Kent's Children's Rights Service), who can provide support to help you pursue a complaint	Care Matters (basic element of pledge – page 22); existing KCC policy	As above	£0
Provide you with access to a solicitor (at our cost) if you want legal advice about your care order, or any other legal order affecting you – such as contact with certain people in your life	Existing Children Act 1989 duty	Promotes safeguarding; effective corporate parenting; involvement of child/young person in decision making (promotes resilience via promoting self efficacy)	£0

OLA Pledge			
Pledge Commitment	Source	Contribution to Better Outcomes	Additional Estimated Cost pa
1. Sense of belonging			
Help your local authority ensure that your care plan includes extra help to enable you to attend school and maintain contact with important people in your life	Care Matters	Promotes example of best practice to other local authorities placing LAC in Kent in a way which benefits the child/young person through encouraging better outcomes – including placement stability; safeguarding; identity/resilience and health care (ECM) agenda	£0
Make sure you know who your corporate parents are and how you can contact them	Care Matters (see range of proposals focussing on corporate parenting under Chapter 1 of White Paper, specifically pages 22 to 27); Existing DCSF guidance for members on their role as a corporate parent (see KCC guidance document)	Promotes good example of effective corporate parenting and accountability to the responsible local authority; contributes to evidence that Lead Member and DCS (Graham Badman) are meeting their current and forthcoming legal duties for all LAC in Kent	£0
2. A consistent adult			
Ask the local authority responsible for your care to ensure that you have a named Independent Reviewing Officer and a named Social Worker who visits you on a regular basis and tells you how to contact them	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge – see page 22 and 63 and 64 of White Paper re SWs; page 22 and 132 re IROs); Highlighted by young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Promotes safeguarding; helps to prevent LAC drifting in care; indirectly supports LAC placement stability (including PAFA1) through support to carers (based on research findings – e.g. McAuley et al, 2006) Promotes best practice in other local authorities	£0
Ask you local authority to make sure that you have at least one person in your life who you can expect to be around throughout your childhood	Highlighted in Care Matters (White Paper) ; Issue raised by young people (Hardelot DVDs on pledge) . Commitment includes focus on provision of Independent Visitors (legal requirement under The Children Act 1989 and emphasised in Care Matters, including new legislation (page 133)	Promotes safeguarding; promoting identity/resilience of LAC. Indirectly supports better outcomes re placement stability (including PAFA1); educational attainment (e.g. PAFA2 (GCSE attainment); PAFC24 (school absence) and LAA target 3 – key stage results and GCSE attainment); access to sports and leisure opportunities (Care Matters proposal). Promotes best practice in other local authorities	£0
3. A good education			
Work with your social worker to ensure that you have a place at a school that will help you to do your best	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 and Chapter 4; issue raised by young people – ie. Upfront Survey (1998); meeting with Children's Champion Board 2005.	Improved educational attainment of LAC and Care Leavers; contributes to the responsible local authorities performance a range of government targets – e.g. PAFA1 (placement stability); PAFC24 (school absence); PAFA2 (GCSE attainment); PAFA4 (reducing NEET); C81 (reducing offending); contributes to LAA target 3 (key stage results and GCSE attainment); supports healthy care (ECM) agenda for LAC; promotes identity/resilience; increases opportunities for LAC to achieve legal permanence outside of the LAC system	£0
Work with your school and the designated teacher ¹ to help you do your best	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22 and 71	As above	£0
Help you catch-up with school work if you fall behind	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22	As above	£0
Celebrate your achievements and success	Corporate Parenting Guidance; Research findings on promoting Resilience in Children	As above – especially resilience/identity	£0

4. Good memories for the future			
Provide at least 4 hours a week of opportunities to pursue hobbies and interests (including sports and music)	Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – see page 22; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge)	Supports Healthy Care initiative (part of ECM agenda for LAC); promotes placement stability (including responsible authorities performance under PAFA1), identity/resilience; contributes to evidence that lead member and DCS (Graham Badman) are meeting their current and forthcoming legal duties for all Kent LAC	£342,066
5. Preparation for adulthood			
Ask the local authority responsible for your care to make sure that you are consulted about key decisions being made in your life	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989/1991/Children Act 1989 and more recent childcare legislation; The Gillick Judgement 1985 ; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge); Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 ; Research findings on benefits on involving children/young people in decision making	Promoting safeguarding (e.g. Butler-Sloss 1988); Decisions for child in all aspects of their lives are more likely to be successfully implemented (e.g. Thoburn, 1992; Hodgson, 1996); promotes greater resilience and sense of identity (e.g. Henderson, 1995) Promotes best practice in other local authorities	£0
6. Champion needs and interests			
Encourage you to communicate your wishes, interests and feelings – taking into account any disabilities you have	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989/1991/Children Act 1989 and more recent childcare legislation; The Gillick Judgement 1985 ; Young People (Hardelot DVDs on pledge); Care Matters proposal (basic element of pledge) – page 22 ; Research findings on benefits on involving children/young people in decision making	Promoting safeguarding (e.g. Butler-Sloss 1988); Decisions for child in all aspects of their lives are more likely to be successfully implemented (e.g. Thoburn, 1992; Hodgson, 1996); promotes greater resilience and sense of identity (e.g. Henderson, 1995) Promotes best practice in other local authorities	£0
Ask the local authority responsible for your care to make sure that you know how to complain and how you can access a Children's Rights Service who can provide support to help you pursue a complaint	As above	As above	£0
Support you, your carers and your local authority in making sure that plans for your education and health needs are up-to-date	Care Matters (basic element of pledge – page 22	As above	£0
Remind your local authority of their responsibility to provide you with access to a solicitor if you want legal advice about your care order, or any other legal order affecting you – such as contact with certain people in your life	Existing Children Act 1989 duty	Promotes safeguarding; effective corporate parenting by responsible local authority; involvement of child/young person in decision making (promotes resilience) Promotes best practice in other local authorities	£0