

## What Makes The Difference? TOOLS and RESOURCES

**Name of tool/resource:**

**GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PLEDGE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE - FROM CARE MATTERS - TIME FOR CHANGE 2007.**

**Name and region of agency/organisation that developed this tool/resource:**

Department for Education and Skills. National.

**Purpose and brief description of tool/resource:**

To set out the requirements for local authorities to develop a pledge to children and young people in care, outlining a basic framework for the development of a pledge.

**Publication Date:** June 2007

**Contact details for further information about this tool/resource**

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**Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource**

**Positive impact of this tool/resource:**

1. Unknown. Not yet implemented.
- 2.
- 3.



## **Extract from Care Matters – Time for Change 2007 The Pledge**

**1.25 We expect every local area to develop a pledge for the children in their care.**

The pledges should be developed locally through the children's trust arrangements and may include a regional dimension. They should ensure that:

- Children in care are aware of the basic statutory requirements with which local authorities should already be complying;
- Children are aware of the key opportunities and benefits offered to them locally;
- Children in care are supported to engage with positive activities as much as possible, for example, the cadets, scouts or guides and local sports clubs, including support for their own hobbies and interests;
- Children in care have been consulted and involved in developing the pledge, including those with special needs and disabled children; and
- The pledge is regularly reviewed and reflected in the local Children and Young People's Plan or equivalent.

### **Basic elements of the care pledge:**

- A commitment to involve children in decisions which affect them and to take account of their wishes and expressed feelings about the services they receive.
- Qualified social workers for every child in care with clear arrangements in place for the child in care to contact his/her social worker as necessary
- Effective assessment of individual needs and an up to date care plan based on those needs
- A placement with carers who can meet needs
- Contact with siblings and birth parents in line with their care plan
- Regular reviews in which children will be enabled to participate meaningfully (particularly for disabled children with communication difficulties)
- Services which recognise the diverse ethnic and cultural needs of the children
- Access to advocacy services if children have a complaint
- An Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure children's rights are upheld
- Access to high quality free early years provision at age 3 and 4
- A place at a good school
- A designated teacher in school to ensure high quality support in school
- Details of support available to participate in positive leisure time activities

- Support to reduce absence from school
- Help to catch up with school work if they fall behind
- Regular assessments of their health (physical and emotional)
- Details of support available when they move on from care
- The support young people can expect when entering further and higher education
- How the local authority will support young people seeking employment, including employment with training.