

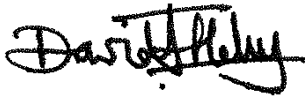
The Swindon Care Pledge

Our Promises to You!



More Information and Support

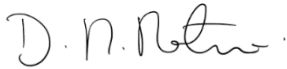
The Swindon Borough Council Care Pledge has been approved by:



David Haley
Corporate Director of Children's Services



Suzie Kemp
Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council



D. MARY MARTIN

Cllr. Mary Martin
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

If, you don't understand any of these pledges, ask your social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer to talk it through with you.

If, you don't think this Pledge is being followed speak to your Social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer.

If, you're still not happy you can speak to;

The Participation Officer or the Children in Care Council;

ChallengeAndParticipation@swindon.gov.uk

Coram Voice Advocacy Service; Always Heard - if you would like to speak to someone independent contact them free on 0808 800 5792, or visit our [Always Heard](https://coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard) section. <https://coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard>

SBC Complaints Manager; Jackie Dawson; JDawson@swindon.gov.uk

Ofsted; 0300 123 1231; enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Children's Commissioner for England; 020 7783 8330;
info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

What is the Swindon Care Pledge?

This sets out our promise to you and is for every single child and young person cared for by Swindon Borough Council. It is what you should expect from us!

Before you come into care we will ask all your family and friends if any of them could look after you, if this is not possible we will make sure you are well cared for. We want the same for you as we want for our own children – the best.

You also have a part to play. As you grow older your responsibilities will grow too.

The pledges in this booklet should happen for you. If they don't, you can use this booklet to tell us and challenge us. Turn to the back to find out how to do this.



Respect You

What does this mean?

We want you to feel valued and respected. This means listening to you and doing our best to do what you want us to, and if we can't do it, we will tell you why.

We will...

Treat you with care and respect

We will give you the respect you deserve.

Listen to your views about where you want to be

This means when you tell us where you want to be, we will listen to you and tell you if we can make it happen.

Involve you in decisions which will affect you

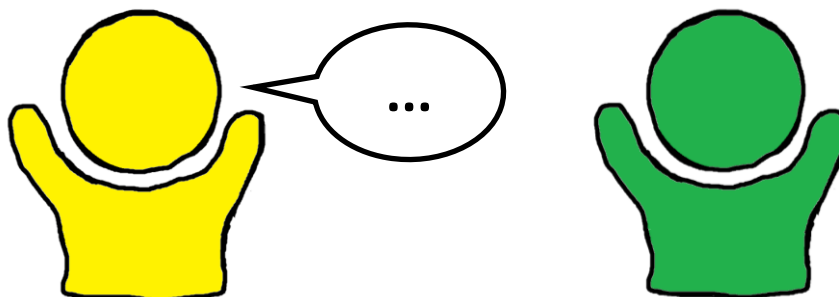
If we need to make a decision which will affect you, no matter what it will be, you will be involved and we will listen to your thoughts.

Encourage you to take part in activities you enjoy

Dancing, gaming, football or drawing. We want you to take part in whatever you enjoy.

Do what we say we will do, when we say we will do it

If we say we're going to do something, we do it. Simple as that!



Care for you

What does this mean?

We will make sure you're cared for and let you know that no matter what we'll be there to support you when you're going through a tough time.

We will...

Promise to do our best for children and young people in care

We will always do our very best for you.

Help keep you healthy, well and safe

We will help you stay physically fit, mentally healthy and safe.

Get you into a school which will meet your needs

We will do everything we can to get you into a school that you want to be at and meets your needs.

Make sure you have pocket money

It's great to have spending money in your pocket, so we'll work out with you how much you need and when you will get it.

Not keep secrets from you

We will tell you the truth, and promise not to hide the facts from you.

Support you

What does this mean?

It's important that we help you reach your goals and help you figure out what path you need to take to get to them.

We will...

Help you stay in contact with people important to you

We will do our best to keep you in touch with the people you care about most, and if this isn't possible, we will tell you why.

Make sure you have plenty of people to talk to

Making friends is important, so we will make sure you have plenty of people to talk to and make friends with. Whether this is at Children in Care Council meetings or other places.

Help you get into college and university

In the future, you will be thinking about jobs and how you can get that job! We will work with you to get the job you want by helping you apply to colleges and university.

Help you if school doesn't go the way you had hoped

Sometimes things don't work out, for a number of reasons. If this happens we will support you and help you through it.

Help you with training and work opportunities

Sometimes college or university isn't where you want to go. We will help you to get the training or work opportunities you want to get.



Help you grow

What does this mean?

Although it's important we take care of you, it's also important that we help you to become an even better person and gain more independence.

We will...

Help you gain independence

We will support you as much as we can, but we'll also try to help you make important decisions on your own.

Help you understand why you are in care

If you want to know why you are in care, we will absolutely tell you. It's your choice if you want to know or not.

Help you meet your full potential

We want you to fulfil your dreams, and we will do whatever we can to support that.

Make sure you understand your Personal educational Plan

If you don't understand, or have any questions about your Personal Educational Plan, please let us know and we will answer your questions.

Give you a social worker you can build a relationship with

Wherever possible we aim for you to keep the same social worker throughout your time with us, because we know it's hard when they keep changing and you've got to work with someone new.

