

Our Charter

The Borough of Poole are your Corporate Parents and we will make sure that:

You are healthy

- We will make sure that you are supported and helped to manage the changes that affect your lives
- You will be given support, advice and information so that you can lead a healthy lifestyle
- You will have access to medical care and confidential care when you need it

You stay safe

- We will make sure that placements are as near to your community supports as possible, and try to make sure that brothers and sisters are placed together
- Unless it is an urgent situation, we will introduce you to new people gradually and support you while you are getting to know them
- Where you live will be safe and stable and wherever possible, you will not move placements
- You will be kept safe from crime, danger, bullying and discrimination

You enjoy and achieve

- We will make sure that you get the most from your education and are supported in school or college

- We will listen to your views and make sure that you have the opportunity to develop and enjoy your own interests and activities
- Your achievements will be recognised, acknowledged and valued

You can make a positive contribution

- You will be fully involved in decisions and will be given clear information and explanations
- Your comments or complaints will be dealt with openly, honestly and quickly
- Your social worker will meet regularly with you, your parents and carers
- We will make sure that you are able to keep in touch with the people that are important to you

You can achieve economic well-being

- You will be prepared as you move on from care and you will have access to advice and support into adulthood
- You will be supported if you want to continue your education
- You will be offered guidance with training, education and employment
- You will have a choice of suitable accommodation as you leave care

Signed



Mayor of Poole

Date

March 2006

Signed



Children's Services Portfolio Holder

Date

March 2006

Our Charter

The Children and Young People who are looked after by the Borough of Poole say that these things are important to us:

Being healthy

- ✿ Moving placements and other changes such as schools affects our feelings of security and consistency
- ✿ Don't change lots of things at the same time eg carer, school, social worker - this leaves us vulnerable
- ✿ We need to know why we are in care. It helps us to understand where we have come from and where we are going

Staying safe

- ✿ Where we live is important to us - we want to be as close to our community supports as possible
- ✿ As far as possible, placements should be with brothers and sisters
- ✿ There should be longer and gradual introductions to new social workers or new placements. We should have time to get to know new people
- ✿ Don't assume that we always want to be treated the same as other members of the foster family - we have different backgrounds and expectations

Enjoying and achieving

- ✿ We don't want to be just told that we are moving schools or staying at the same school - we want to be given explanations and be involved in discussions
- ✿ We want our achievements recognised

Making a positive contribution

- ✿ We want to be involved in the decisions that affect our lives. Tell us the issues so that we know why certain decisions are made and if they could be changed as we get older
- ✿ Talk to us so that we can understand you. Don't use jargon or big words, but don't talk down to us either

Achieving economic well-being

- ✿ We want safe and affordable housing when we leave care
- ✿ We need to have information about jobs, training and education and be supported in the choices we make