

As you are a Kent Care Leaver we specifically promise to:

- If you are eligible, make sure you are able to get a passport, and arrange for your National Insurance number to be issued
- Help and support your progress in education, both in further education and at university
- Find you somewhere safe to live and provide the necessary support you need to live independently. Up until you are 21, help you with council tax and make sure you don't lose out on housing benefit if you are in education, training or low-paid employment
- If you are at Uni we will support you with a financial package that includes the government bursary
- If you have a disability, make sure that you have your own 'communication passport' that tells others how you communicate and how they can communicate with you
- If you need to move to Adult Services, make sure the move is as smooth as possible
- You can obtain a list of what you are entitled to from your social worker or Personal Advisor



Help us to celebrate your achievements by keeping in touch, and tell us when you need help, sooner, rather than later.

Things not going right?

What should you do if don't think these promises are being met:

You can always speak to your Social Worker or Personal Adviser

You can ask for an advocate (this is a person who is independent of Kent County Council who can speak on your behalf and help make sure your voice is heard)

You Can Contact:

YLF Telephone: **01622 683815**

Email: **advocacy@ylf.org.uk**

Website: **ylf.org.uk**

The Young Adult Council (YAC) is a group for young people in care or leaving care aged 16-21 who meet regularly around the county. The meetings give you the chance to meet others and have your say on how improvements could be made to help you and others. This links with the Children in Care Council (OCYPC) for younger children.

To find out more: Telephone **03000 412777**
Email: **VSK_participation@kent.gov.uk** or speak to your Personal Advisor.



Our
promise
to care leavers

The Kent Care
Leavers' Charter



Leaving care can be a difficult time

Kent, as your 'Corporate Parent' can be there to guide and support you through it.

This Charter is Kent County Council's promise to you to help support you when you leave care. It follows on from the Kent Pledge made to Children and Young People in the Care of Kent. We are committed to ensuring that you, as a Care Leaver have access to the best possible chances in life when making the transition from being in care to independence.

Some of you will be going through immigration process, we will ensure you are supported with this. You will also be able to contact us after the service to you closes for any advice and support you may need.



Let us support you to achieve your ambitions and aspirations in education, training and employment.

Here is Kent's charter to you as you leave care. We promise to listen, support and guide you to grow into healthy, happy and successful young adults. We can do this by working together.

We will **respect you** and **honour your identity** as an individual, taking into consideration **your own values, beliefs and personal needs**

We will make sure we ask you about important decisions that need to be made

We will **value and support** where appropriate, **relationships** that are important to you

We will give you **support** throughout your **education, training and employment** to give you the chance to **succeed**

We will work with other services for any changes in the law that **affect the lives** of young people

We will try to minimise any changes to placements or workers

If we don't agree with you, we will fully explain why, and we will be honest with you

We will **believe in you**. We will **support your potential goals** and **help you to achieve them**

We will **keep you safe and well** by making sure where you live is **safe** and the right place for you, we will give you the right guidance to live a **healthy life**

We will **listen and work alongside you** with a care plan to ensure your **readiness for independent living**

We want to **help you** to be where you want to be. We will make sure we give you the **information** that you need at every stage in your **move to adulthood**

We will point you in the **right direction** and help you move along at your own pace

We will take the time to **listen to you** and do our best to **give the right advice** if things aren't going well for you

We will make sure you keep in touch with **family and friends** as much as possible whilst considering your **safety and well-being**. We will help you manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other **important life events**

We will continue to be there for you, so get in touch with us if you need to