

# Our Promise TO **Children** AND **Young People**



**Partners in Wakefield are committed to working together to achieve a positive future for children and young people across the district. We want Wakefield to be a vibrant, healthy, safe and culturally diverse place to live, work and visit. The success of our children and young people is a fundamentally important part of being able to achieve this. Together, we will be ambitious for our children and young people and play our part in keeping them happy, healthy, and safe.**

**To enable this to happen, partners in Wakefield promise to:**

**Make the voice of the child a central part of the way in which we design and deliver services. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Actively consult with all children and young people, including those for whom we are corporate parents, on anything that may affect them.
- Recognise the diversity of voices across children and young people in the district.

**Provide opportunities for children and young people to gain skills and experience, setting them up for a successful future. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Provide good quality, well supported apprenticeships, work experience opportunities, and paid internships.
- Support strong links between children and young people and partners to gain broader life skills, education and experiences.



**Support Children in Care to be healthy, happy, safe and ambitious. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Give thought to how the organisation can reach out to, or support children in care as corporate parents.
- Create opportunities for children in care to gain skills and experience, recognising that they may need additional support to do so.

**Support all children and young people to feel safe. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Support awareness raising campaigns on a range of issues effecting children's safety, for example online safety or child exploitation.
- Lead or support children and young people to have safe and stable places to live, where they feel happy and settled.
- Signpost to services aimed at keeping children and young people safe.
- Support the Young People's Safeguarding Charter.

**Acknowledge that emotional and physical wellbeing is an important aspect of a child or young person's quality of life. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Ensure children, young people and their families are signposted to the right emotional wellbeing and mental health services.
- Consider how their organisation can contribute to easy access to cultural and leisure activities.
- Consider how the impact on children and young people can be maximised when promoting the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'.





**Become foster and adoption friendly organisations. Partners will endeavour to:**

- Actively promote foster caring and adoption within the workplace and participate in promotional events - including briefings from the Council's Fostering Service.
- Make information about how to become a foster carer or how to adopt widely available.
- Consider allowing employees an agreed amount of time off work to attend initial foster carer training.
- Recognise that an employee who has caring responsibilities may have to respond to an unplanned situation that occurs at short notice requiring them to be absent from work.
- Provide foster carers with the same access to emergency leave as parents, and recognise fostered/kinship care children as dependants.

**To make sure we do the things we have pledged to do in this promise. Partners will:**

- Have strong, effective, transparent partnership, leadership and governance.
- Provide services that are high quality, evidence-based and integrated. Services will be delivered at the right time and in the right place to meet the needs of children and young people.
- Provide evidence to support the publication of an annual report, highlighting what partners are doing to contribute towards delivering the ambitions presented in this promise.

## Message from the Wakefield Together Partnership

We take our responsibilities to the Wakefield district's children and young people seriously. That is why we as the Wakefield Together Executive, a group of senior leaders from a number of public sector organisations including the Council, Fire, Police, Education, Health, Housing, and Voluntary sector, have worked to develop and commit to this promise.

**For further information visit:**

[www.wakefieldscb.org.uk](http://www.wakefieldscb.org.uk)

[www.wakefieldtogether.org.uk/](http://www.wakefieldtogether.org.uk/)

