

London launches pledge to children in care

25 November 2008

Minister for London Tony McNulty and representatives from London boroughs met today to sign the London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care, a set of 47 promises from all 33 of London's local authorities to those in care or leaving care.

Developed in consultation with children in care, the London pledge give this group of young people the support they need to enjoy the same opportunities as their peers who are not in care, wherever they live, go to school, college or work.

Tony McNulty, along with representatives from children's services from each London borough, signed the pledge at an event at the Brit Oval cricket ground, which brought together those who have developed the pledge, those who will be implementing it, and some of the young people who will benefit from it.

The Minister said: "The launch of the pledge is an example of what can be achieved when partners across the capital come together to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people. Children in care in London are over-represented in the youth justice system, they are also more likely to be homeless and less likely to be in employment, education or training. This pledge will give them a real chance to improve their outcomes and reach their potential."

London Councils' Executive Member for Children and Young People, Councillor James Kempton, said: "This pioneering pledge is a powerful symbol of local authorities' commitment to give children in their care a better deal. I am expecting every council in London will sign the pledge. They and all of the other organisations that have signed up to this London-wide pledge have done so voluntarily.

"This demonstrates our determination to give children in care all the help and support they need to succeed. This innovative London-wide pledge means they can now expect the same support wherever in London they live, go to school, college, or work. We will also be providing help and support to parents and carers so they too can play a full role in the process.

"Childhood is a time for learning, developing and shaping futures. Through this pledge, we will do more than ever to provide children in care with the best preparation for adult life."

Notes to editors

1. The Pledge demonstrates the commitment of London's children's services to improving the health, education and opportunities for some of London's most vulnerable young people, and has been developed as part of London's response to the DCSF Care Matters: Time for Change. It also sets responsibilities for London's local authorities to design and deliver the local pledge that meets young people's needs. The regional pledge will dovetail with pledges



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that are developed locally, ensuring that a consistent core offer is available across the region.

The Pledge has been developed over the past 18 months by the Government Office for London through its Young London Matters programme, London Councils, the Association of London Directors of Children's Services, voluntary sector organisations and a range of practitioners. Children's Rights Director for OFSTED, Dr. Roger Morgan, has also played a leading role in its development.

2. An online version of the London Pledge, and contact details of where children and young people can access local information about their rights and their Council, can be found at <http://www.younglondonmatters.org>

3. London Councils is committed to fighting for more resources for London and getting the best possible deal for London's 33 councils. We develop policy, lobby government and others, and run a range of services designed to make life better for Londoners.

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For more information, please contact Nick Mann, Minister for London press officer, on 0207 261 8395 nick.mann@coi.gsi.gov.uk

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