

CARE

SAFETY



# THE PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE

RESPECT

SUPPORT



a guide for looked after children and care leavers





## WHAT IS THE PLEDGE?

The Nottinghamshire Partnership Pledge explains how the \*Partnership will support looked after children and care leavers in and from the County. This has already been identified in the Partnership's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2022-25. This was led by the needs and wishes of care experienced people. This Pledge is a summary of the Strategy. The Pledge has been created by and for looked after children and care leavers so that we can easily understand the services and support that organisations in Nottinghamshire are planning to provide us at different stages of our lives, if we need it.



# INTRO FROM CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

**\*The Partnership will help you every step of the way in all aspects of your life. This Pledge will help you understand the support available and what you can expect from people and services that support you. We would like this document to be used to start conversations with workers you trust.**

From “No Labels” – Nottinghamshire’s Children in Care Council \*Nottinghamshire Looked After Children and Care Leavers Partnership



**YOU ARE  
NOT  
ALONE**





# WHAT IS THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS PARTNERSHIP?



The Partnership is made up of all the organisations in Nottinghamshire that support looked after children and care leavers living in and from Nottinghamshire. The organisations include Nottinghamshire County Council and the seven Nottinghamshire district and borough councils who have a **corporate parenting responsibility** to you, which means they must provide some services and support to you by law. To provide the best quality services and support, we work with other organisations that also help and support you in different aspects of your lives.



This includes having a safe home, a good education, being healthy and feeling part of communities that are important to you.



As a Partnership, we work to understand your needs, not just those required by law, and we have agreed how we will do this in our new strategy for 2022-25. This Pledge outlines how we will do this.



**CARE**



# WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE IN THE PARTNERSHIP?

LOVE



## **Nottinghamshire County Council Looked After Children Service**

We support young people who are looked after and in the care of the Council until their 18th birthday.

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## **Nottinghamshire County Council Leaving Care Service**

We support young people from when they are 17½ until their 25th birthday if they have been in the care of the Council.

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## **Nottinghamshire County Council The Achievement Service**

We support young people aged 16-24 around employment, education and training.

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## **Nottinghamshire County Council Growth, Infrastructure & Development**

We work with other organisations and businesses to encourage them to offer training, jobs and work experience for young people.

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## **Nottinghamshire Police**

We ensure young people's safety, and make sure you are treated fairly.

## **Nottinghamshire Probation Service**

We support care experienced people over 18, where they have been involved with the police and may need extra support for their safety and the protection of others in the community.

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## **West Nottinghamshire College**

We provide personal and academic support for young people, helping them stay at college and achieve their ambitions.

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## **Nottingham Trent University**

We support young people to find out about and apply to university and make a successful start to higher education.

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## **Nottinghamshire district and borough councils'**

We provide a range of services to our local communities, including free access to our swimming pools and gyms, priority access to our housing and council tax reductions for care leavers living in our area.

## **Futures for you**

We support all young people with their careers, skills and employment decisions through impartial, professional and free information advice and guidance. Helping you make the best choices at every step in your journey.

## **Department of Work and Pensions**

We support care leavers to claim the benefits and support they are entitled to, and to find employment and training opportunities that are right for them.

## **Nottinghamshire County Council The Virtual School**

We work with social workers, schools, colleges, education settings and other professionals to support you with your education. We have created training to support schools and Designated Teacher's for Children in Care to fulfil their roles [em-edsupport.org.uk/Services/4972](http://em-edsupport.org.uk/Services/4972)

## **Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service**

We offer young people somewhere safe to go and have fun. We welcome young people from age 10 to 19, children in our care until the age of 21 and young people with disabilities up to the age of 25.

## **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)**

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB offers health services for children and young people, including specific provision to meet the health needs of children in care and care leavers.

## **Nottinghamshire County Children's Rights Services**

We provide an independent and confidential advocacy service for children and young people in Nottinghamshire. An advocate is a person who can help represent your views, wishes and feelings.

**KINDNESS**



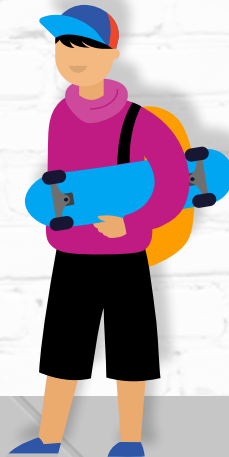
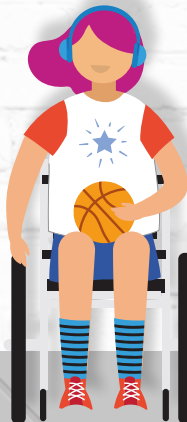
# WHO IS THE PLEDGE FOR?



The Pledge is for **you**, whether you are:

- in residential care
- living in foster care
- a care leaver
- a child in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council living in or out of Nottinghamshire
- an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child, or
- a young person who has come into care aged 16 or 17 due to homelessness.

UNITED WE  
THRIVE →



## PLEDGE 1

# We will help ensure you are safe and feel safe

**All workers you meet will listen to your thoughts, worries, wishes and feelings in several ways. This includes:**

- Through the [Mind of My Own app](#)
- At your Looked After Child Review meeting.
- Through the [Advocacy Service](#)
- If needed, through discussions between staff who support you and the police. This includes a conversation with a Children in Care police officer.
- Through safe spaces like the women's boxing circuit run by the Police and youth centres.
- Through the Probation Service's [User Voice](#) platform and focus groups.
- Through peer support groups at West Nottinghamshire College or Nottingham Trent University if you are a student at either of them.





## We will help ensure you experience good physical, emotional and mental health, and wellbeing

**We will all work together to help you to understand your past experiences and make sure you get the support that is right for you. This includes:**

- Health services will help to understand what is needed to achieve the best outcomes for young people who are looked after.
- CAMHS**, AskJan (for when you are 18 or older) and You Know Your Mind.
- Your social worker or personal adviser will ensure you receive any additional support you need, including holiday activities and tech equipment.
- The Integrated Care Board will continue to offer the **Youth Justice Nursing service** and **Head2Head CAMHS** if you need this support.
- A paediatrician will review all of your health needs when you become looked after.
- A specialist nursing team will support you with your health and complete your regular health assessments throughout your time in care.
- Health professionals will support young people with health needs to transition smoothly to adult services.





## PLEDGE 3

# HOPE

## We will help ensure you fulfil your potential

**We will ensure you have access to the best employment, training, work experience, learning opportunities and resources. For example:**

- Notts police will provide insight and guidance around careers in policing.
- The Virtual School will support you if there are any issues about the best place for you to go to school, as well as the options and decisions around moving into training, apprenticeships, employment and/or further studies until your 18th birthday.
- Between ages 16 to 18, your social worker will support you to create your own Personal Education Plans (PEP) and will review this with you every term.
- If you go to West Nottinghamshire College, they will provide a Specialist careers adviser to help you reach your goals.
- If you have a Probation Officer, the Probation Service will provide CV writing and disclosure workshops.
- From the last term of school, Futures will provide you with a named Careers Adviser to support you to plan your next steps and beyond. You will receive a Careers and Skills Action Plan.
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, and the associated health providers, (Sherwood Forest Hospitals, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottinghamshire Healthcare and Nottingham City Care Partnership) will provide work experience opportunities.





## We will help ensure you are actively involved as members of your local communities

**We will work together to make sure you know about community activities and events you might want to attend or take part in, including:**

- [Miner2Major, Youth Service](#) and the [Festival of Science and Curiosity](#)
- Achievement events and award ceremonies.
- We will also celebrate your important life events with you, including birthdays, Christmas, Eid, and support you at graduation ceremonies and other achievement awards.
- We will give you the chance to have your say, get your voice heard and to improve the services care experienced people come into contact with. This includes through the Children in Care Council and through the [Youth Voice Facebook page](#)
- [The Youth Service](#) will help you get involved in volunteering opportunities within your community until you are 21.
- The [Nottingham Trent University Progression Scheme](#) to help you get to get to know about university.



## PLEDGE 5

# We will ensure you have a successful transition to adulthood

**We will help you with applying for accommodation, budgeting money, and other things to help you live independently. This is achieved through:**

- You and your social worker working together to create your Pathway Plan around your 16th birthday. You will get to review this every 6 months until you are 21.
- Switching to having a personal adviser (PA) rather than a social worker when you are 18. Your PA will be there to support you until you are 21.
- After you are 21 the 21Plus Service will be there to offer you support, advice and guidance until your 25th birthday.
- Through the **“Staying Put”** scheme, if you and your foster carers want this.
- When you’re ready we will prepare you to live independently. Your personal adviser will help you complete a “ready to move” pack so you are ready to take on your own tenancy.
- If you are living outside Nottinghamshire when you turn 18, we will support you to live wherever you want that to be, whether it’s back in Nottinghamshire or where you already are.
- If you are being supported by the Probation Service, they will ensure you have support to find somewhere to live.
- If you want to live in housing owned by district councils (social housing) in Nottinghamshire, then you will be given priority on their waiting lists.
- There is lots more support to help you to prepare for living independently when you are 18. This is all included in **[Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers.](#)** and via our “Notts Next Steps” app.



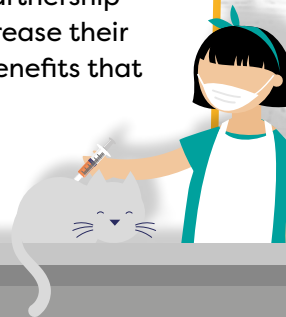
## PLEDGE 6

# We will help ensure you achieve sustained and fulfilling education, employment, and economic independence



**We will support you in your career by providing the financial, practical, and emotional support that you need. This will be done through our:**

- Virtual School who will support your educational journey until you are 18 years old.
- Achievement Service, who can work with you from when you are 16, in relation to your employment, education, and training goals, up until you're 25.
- Nottinghamshire County Council will guarantee you a job interview if you meet all the essential criteria for the role.
- Our Care2Work programme if you are 16/17 years old, which will help you to better understand the expectations of employers and the world of work.
- East Midlands Chamber, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership will work with local and national employers to increase their knowledge of care experienced people and the benefits that work experience and internships can provide.
- Nottingham Trent University Employability 'Rise' initiative to help to support you reach your goals whilst studying there.
- Futures careers advisers will provide you with information, advice and guidance, as well as the practical support of creating a CV and preparing for interviews.



# GLOSSARY

**ASK JAN**- This service assists care experienced people by providing services like counselling, personal finance advice, nutrition, exercise, stress and wellbeing advice.

**CAMHS**- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is a service that supports children and young people with their mental health.

**Children in Care Council**- This is a safe space where you can have your say, get your voice heard and shape services.

**Disclosure workshops**- Support people on probation, and the workers helping them, to understand how to enter employment, education, and training with a criminal record.

**Looked After Review meeting**- This meeting will review how you're doing, discuss your experience of care and plans for the next stage of your life.

**Mind of My Own app**- Your workers at Nottinghamshire County Council will listen to your thoughts, worries, wishes and feelings via the Mind of My Own app. They or their manager will respond to your statement within 24 working hours. Your social worker and Independent Review Officer should help you register on the app when you come into care and will talk to you about it at every Looked After Review meeting. If they don't, ask them about it.



UNITY →







**Paediatrician** - a medical person who works with children/young people.

**Pathway Plan**- The Pathway Plan sets out the route to the future for young people leaving care and will state how your needs will be met on your path to independence.

**Personal Education Plans (PEPs)**- These plans identify your educational needs, short term targets, long term plans and aspirations.

**User Voice**- A platform for people on probation to provide feedback about the service.

**You Know Your Mind**- This fund is available for you to apply to, with ideas about how you can improve your mental and emotional health. It helps you understand what works for you. Your personal adviser or social worker can discuss this with you

**Youth Justice Nursing Service**- This is a team of nurses who improve the health of young people in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Youth Justice Services.

If you have any questions about the Pledge or want to talk to someone about it, speak to the person you feel most comfortable talking to. This may be your social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, youth worker, foster carer, teacher, nurse, or someone else.





Nottingham and Nottinghamshire



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