



# PLEDGE TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE



**Isle of Man  
Government**  
*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

## ISLE of MAN GOVERNMENT PLEDGE TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

### OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

This pledge is made to all children and young people in care on the Isle of Man from the Government and its partners. This pledge is made to you on behalf of the Government Ministers responsible for those services and its partners, including independent providers of services who are involved in your care.

We have consulted many of you on your views as to what should be included in this Pledge. We have included the things which are most important to you as well as those we think that any child or young person should get to give them the best start in life possible. Growing up in care is not easy and we can never replace your family – however we pledge to try to do everything that a parent would do to give their children the opportunities in life that they deserve.

This is our Pledge to you.

**Signed on the 16 July 2009**

**By Hon J A Brown, MHK  
Chief Minister**



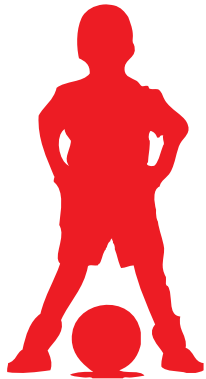
# We pledge to provide you with the freedom to flourish



## Our pledge to you is based on some key principles:

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1. You have told us that you do not want to be seen as one group – you are all individuals with your own needs, feelings and wishes. Some of you have said that you do not want to be seen as a child in care. We Pledge to respect your individual needs, feelings and wishes and consult with you in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
2. You have told us that you want to get your views about care heard by us. We pledge to find new ways to listen to you, to make sure your views are heard by the right people in Government and that you always get a response.
3. You have told us that you want to have your complaints heard and dealt with quickly. We pledge to make it easy to have your complaint heard and if you want to complain then you will be supported in doing so.
4. You have told us that you have ideas of how life can be improved for all children and young people in care. We pledge to provide ways in which you can help us to make services to children and young people in care better, for example through a Children in Care Council.
5. You have told us that it is sometimes difficult to get all the support you need from different departments. We pledge to work together across all departments and providers so that you can more easily get the right support.
6. Some children use different types of communication. We pledge that we will learn ways to communicate with you to hear your voice.
7. You have told us that you are not always sure whether you know your rights. We pledge to honour our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child and make sure you are informed about these.
8. You have told us some children have special needs. We pledge we will endeavour to provide support and care in ways to meet your needs.



## We pledge to support you to be healthy:

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Being healthy means having good friends and consistent relationships, access to the right health support and treatment when you need it and having access to information and support on how to lead a healthy life.

### This is how we will do it:

1. We will help you to make and keep strong friendships; these are important in having good health and wellbeing.
2. We will expect everyone involved in your health, including the designated nurses, doctors, dentists and therapists, to try to understand your individual health needs and provide you with the advice, care and support you need to be healthy.
3. We will make sure you have access to a healthy and varied diet and that you get the opportunity to learn about healthy eating.



4. We will provide you with access to leisure activities and ensure that your residential or foster carers support you in taking up fun and active sports and activities that interest you.
5. We will ensure you have access to the right support when you need it so you can have a good mental health.



## **We pledge to support you to Stay Safe:**

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Staying Safe means having stability in where you live and who cares for you, having positive and consistent relationships with social workers and carers and the people who are important in your life; that the rules in your life are fair and consistent and you are free from harm.

### **This is how we will do it:**

1. We will ensure, as far as possible, you have a safe place to live and that you have stability where you live and who cares for you.
2. We will aim to make sure you are not bullied by adults or peers and that if you feel you are being bullied you can talk to someone about it.
3. We will aim to provide you with positive and consistent relationships with your key adults such as carers, social workers and designated teachers.
4. We will make sure you know how to be safe including providing information about alcohol, drugs, sex education and personal safety.
5. We will, where possible, support you to see the people that are important to you such as family and friends.



## **We pledge to support you to Enjoy and Achieve:**

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Enjoy and Achieve means having a good education, where you feel supported to reach your full potential and have opportunities for interesting, challenging and fun activities.

### **This is how we will do it:**

1. We will provide you with a good education including providing the supports and the encouragement to meet your individual needs and help you achieve your full potential.
2. We will support you and provide you with learning opportunities outside of school, such as cultural visits, fun activities, sporting activities, homework and reading as well as access to extra curricular activities that are of interest to you.
3. We will make sure you have the opportunity to go on holidays and trips, as any other child would.
4. We will be clear about what you should expect from us while you are in care, such as pocket money, clothing and rules, and these will be fair and consistent.
5. We will aim to provide you with additional supports to meet your special needs to help you enjoy and achieve.





## **We pledge to empower you to Make a Positive Contribution:**

Making a Positive Contribution means contributing to decisions about your life, having a say and expecting us to listen, telling us about how to provide the best care and participating in your community.

### **This is how we will do it:**

1. We will make sure your voice is heard in as many ways as possible and if we cannot do something we will always tell you why.
2. We will make sure you are fully involved in decisions about your life, such as placements, reviews and leaving care plans in ways that work for you.
3. We will aim to meet your special needs in order to listen to you and support you making a contribution. We will make sure we learn to communicate with you.
4. We will make sure you have access to Advocacy if you feel that you need support in making your voice heard.
5. We will support you in being a part of the community and to make a contribution to the wider community in which you live.
6. We will celebrate your achievements in a way that is meaningful to you.
7. We will help you to fulfill your responsibilities as a citizen/ neighbour/ pupil/ tenant/ employee.

## **We pledge to support you to Prosper:**

To Prosper means having high aims and hopes for your future, helping you when you leave care with housing, emotional and financial issues, accessing further educational opportunities post 16 and gaining skills in work and life.

### **This is how we will do it:**

1. We will support you in finding someone who can advise and support you in life after care.
2. We will provide you with enough support when you leave care, helping you to plan your future and supporting you in the early stages of your independence.
3. We will provide you with help in getting employment and access to career opportunities that you are interested in.
4. We will help you to go onto further and higher education where appropriate.
5. We will help you to find and maintain appropriate housing.

**We will know if we are successful in delivering this Pledge if all our looked after children and young people in care get the best start in life that we can give them and that they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.**

**If you are a young person in care and would like to know more about this pledge please call or text 07624 431447.**

