What is a ‘Pledge’ for children care?

In addition to establishing children in care council, the White Paper introduced an expectation that every local area would develop a ‘pledge’ for the children in their care. With the aim to ensure that children in care are aware of their rights and the opportunities available to them. (DfES 2007).

Background to the Leeds Pledge

In 2009 the “Leeds Promise” was launched after being developed by looked after young people with support from Children’s Rights. The term “Pledge” was replaced by “Promise” following views expressed by young people that “no one likes to break a promise”.

In 2013, the “Leeds Promise” was reviewed and revised by HaV. We worked in partnership with members of the “Promise Working Group” to agree the final wording, format and discussed how the promise could be built into everyday practice.

We chose a credit card sized format for the card for over tens that could fit in a purse / wallet / pocket but that has a magnetic back to it so that it could also go on a fridge.

We felt very strongly that there needed to be consequences if promises were not met! As a result Steve Walker (Deputy Director of Children’s Services) was keen to demonstrate his commitment to the promise and developed “tellsteve” email address and phone number. You should have received your promise card from your social worker.