

**6. Find care leavers suitable safe, affordable accommodation**

- We will ensure that your care plan reflects your needs and this includes your need to live in accommodation that is clean, warm, safe and that you can afford
- We will plan for you in the long term as you become young adults

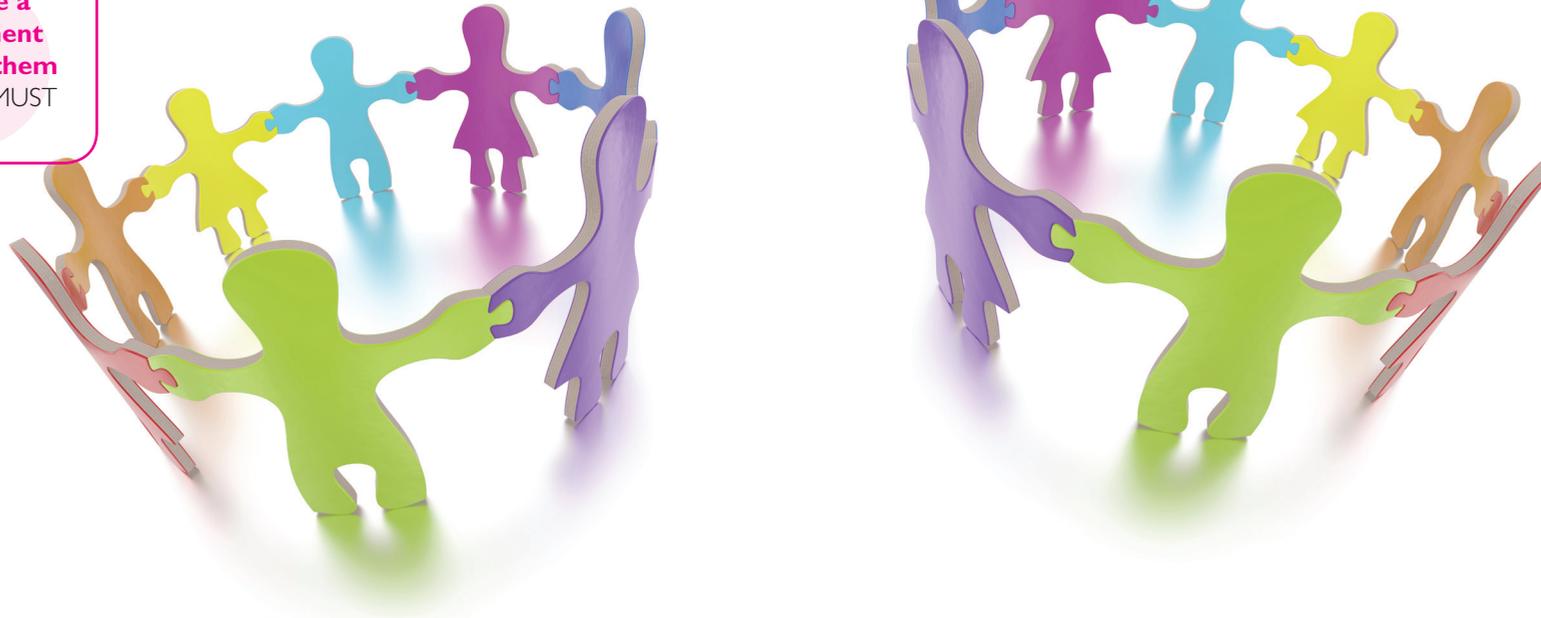
**8. Ensure that all councillors and everyone in Children's Services including schools have a copy of "Liverpool's Great 8" mandate\* displayed in a place where everyone can see it. All staff and councillors will have a copy of a commitment card to carry with them**

- Mandate means You MUST do it!

**7. Champion you throughout your life even when you have left care**

- You won't be expected to move on from care before you are 18
- Whatever you decide to do when you leave school (whether you want to find a job, go to college or university or do something else) we will give you help and support to achieve this
- We will stay in touch with you until you are 21 (or 24 if you are still in education)
- The plans to support you to move on from care will be written down in a pathway plan and you will be given a copy
- Your pathway plan will be regularly reviewed – at least every 6 months

Are you up for the  
Great 8 Challenge?  
Is your practice  
up to scratch?  
Do you pass  
the test?



# The Great 8 Commitments to Children & Young People in the care of Liverpool City Council

Mayor Joe Anderson, The Chief Executive (Ged Fitzgerald) and the management team of Liverpool City Council agree to work towards the Director of Children's Services (Colette O'Brien) commitment to Children and Young people in care. The Lead Member for Children's Services (Jane Corbett) will ensure that the Director's commitment is delivered.

## They will do this by:

- attending the Children in Care Council meetings
- listening and responding to the issues raised by young people
- explaining key decisions and any impact on young people in care in a timely and accessible way

## The Director and the Assistant Directors in Liverpool Children's Services agree to:

- lead a service that promotes the best outcomes for children and young people and their families
- improve the practice of all staff in Children's Services, to ensure that care plans for young people are relevant and they understand who is doing what and when it will be done
- include feedback from CICC at their monthly management meetings
- act on feedback from young people and review the way services respond to young people as and when necessary

## The Director agrees to the Great 8 challenge:

### 1. Respect young people and honour their identity

- You will have your social worker's phone number, office and email addresses so you can contact them when you need to
- Your social worker will keep in touch with you regularly to check you are ok – at least every 1-6 weeks depending on your needs
- We will ensure you get regular health and dental check-ups
- You will be given the name, office address, phone number and email for the nurse for children and young people in care who can give you confidential advice and help to be as healthy as you can
- We will support you with any appointments you have or treatment you need
- If you are not allowed to see someone in your family, your social worker will make sure you understand the reasons why
- We will listen to your opinions when we are arranging contact with family and friends

### 2. Believe in young people

- We will give your school all the information they need to look after you properly
- If you do not make as much progress as you could, we will give you extra help to catch up, both in and out of school
- The plans to support you at school will be written down in a personal education plan and you will get a copy of this
- We will make sure you get a place at the best possible school for you
- We will offer you high quality work experience opportunities
- If you have a disability, we will offer school placements that meet your needs
- We will celebrate your successes and achievements
- We will support you to take part in hobbies and interests

### 4. Inform young people

- Your care plan will include all the support you need, including any support to meet your religious, racial or cultural needs
- It will be written down, you will be given a copy of this and it will be acted upon
- It will be regularly reviewed – at least every 6 months
- The meetings to review the plan will be run by an independent person called an Independent Reviewing Officer
- You will know the name of your Independent Reviewing Officer and how to contact them
- You will be given copies of the notes from your review meetings.

### 3. Listen to young people – we will:

- Ask you what you want
- Listen to what you say
- Act on what you have told us

### 5. Support young people

- We can't always promise to do what you ask, but we will explain the reasons why we have made a decision
- We will make sure you know how to get an independent advocate. That is someone who will listen to you and work with you to get things stopped, started or changed
- We will make sure you have all the information you need to make a complaint, including the name and contact details of the Complaints Procedure manager
- We will take all complaints seriously and deal with them fairly and as quickly as possible