



# Statement of offer to 'care experienced' students

**Lewisham College and Southwark College are committed to nurturing and sustaining a positive future for all, through an inclusive and exceptional learning journey.**

**PURPOSE:** Nationally, Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers.

Education providers have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing, in line with Every Child Matters.

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**PRINCIPLES:** Our approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- » Prioritising education
- » Promoting attendance
- » Targeting support
- » Having high expectations
- » Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- » Achieving stability and continuity
- » Early intervention and priority action
- » Listening to students
- » Promoting health and wellbeing
- » Reducing exclusions and promoting stability

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**PRACTICE:** As for all our students, we are committed to helping every Looked After Child to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance



**WE WILL:** Work in partnership with carers, social workers and external relevant professionals and use the expertise of College professionals for in-house referrals

Ensure a Designated Staff Member for Looked After Children is identified and enabled to carry out the monitoring and support of our Looked After Students

Support the Personal Education Plan (PEP), providing space and qualitative and useful information for the social worker with targets informing tutors work with their looked after students.

Identify a governor as Designated Governor for looked after children (Safeguarding Link)

**This statement of offer links with a number of other policies cross college**

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**CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS:** Our approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- » Children in care are referred to as 'looked after children'
- » A child is 'looked after' if they are in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours
- » A child will stop being 'looked after' when they are either adopted, returned home or turn 18 and the local authority will continue to support children leaving care at 18 until they reach 21
- » The term 'care leaver' refers to a young person under the age of 25 who is, or has been, in public care for a minimum of three months, since the age of 14, and was in care on their 16th birthday
- » Looked after and care leaver students will be supported by the Designated staff member who can be accessed prior to joining the College, throughout the study programme and to support progression