

# South East Children in Care Mental Health Ambition

November 2020



# South East Children in Care – Partnership Mental Health Ambition

This agreement sets out South East Systems Leaders commitment to Children in Care<sup>1</sup>; by making a promise as Corporate Parents to every child in care.

Our promise is:

- That you will always be our priority and we want to work with you to ensure that your emotional health, your education and your welfare are always well supported, building on your skills and talents;
- If you move to live in a new area, we will let the Local Authority\* and the CCG\*\* know that you've arrived and explain what you might need;
- If your emotional health or mental wellbeing deteriorates and you need support or treatment, you will be able to access help in the area you live in without delay;
- If the service that assesses your mental health thinks that you need some support and treatment, it will get on with delivering that to you straight away;
- As Leaders in Local Authorities, CCGs and mental health services, we have agreed our individual roles and our responsibilities towards you – we will stick to these agreements;
- The service that supports you, or offers you treatment, will reclaim funding from the CCG\*\* where you lived when you first came into care, but this won't delay the support or treatment that you need;
- We will always prioritise your need, even if the place you're staying is for the short-term if your arrival there was unplanned;
- We will work together as Leaders to make sure that your needs and strengths inform our planning and our design of local emotional and mental health services – we promise to work with you in the design of these services;

\*Local Authorities employ the social workers and the IROs that you are supported by.

\*\*CCGs fund the nurses, emotional health and mental health staff you might be supported by during your time in care.

1 Referred to as Looked After Children in legislation and statutory guidance (age 0-18, and up to age 25 for CIC with a disability, EHCP, etc)