



WHAT IS ASPIRE?

- Aspire is Haringey's children in care and care leavers council who work closely with the decision makers in Haringey, working as a team to affect change.
- Aspire is a safe place for young people in care and leaving care to socialise with each other.
- Aspire also offers a way for young people to find out what being in foster care and the care system is like and what to expect. It gives young people an insight into all the different types of care arrangements.
- Aspire believe that the rights and entitlements of every young person are paramount and aim to empower all children in care and care leavers.



ASPIRE PROJECTS

Aspire work very closely with Haringey council to complete projects that inform young people of their rights and entitlements.

some of these projects include;

- ❖ Re design of the aspire logo and merchandise
- ❖ Hosting award ceremonies
- ❖ Holidays and trips
- ❖ Various consultations with internal and external services.

Here are some projects that aspire has immersed themselves in over the past couple of years...



Taking young people on holidays and trips helps to build confidence and social skills that some young people in care find it hard to create or maintain else where. Aspire truly believe that creating a family unit and atmosphere helps to maintain a stable environment and mind set in a young persons life. We believe when you feel good about yourself you live life with a positive mental attitude. This helps Aspire to create positive memories for young people when in some cases life is very difficult at home.



ASPIRE HOLIDAYS AND TRIPS

CARE PROCEEDINGS AND FAMILY COURT VIDEO

A court proceedings video which informs young people what will happen if their case is taken to family court.

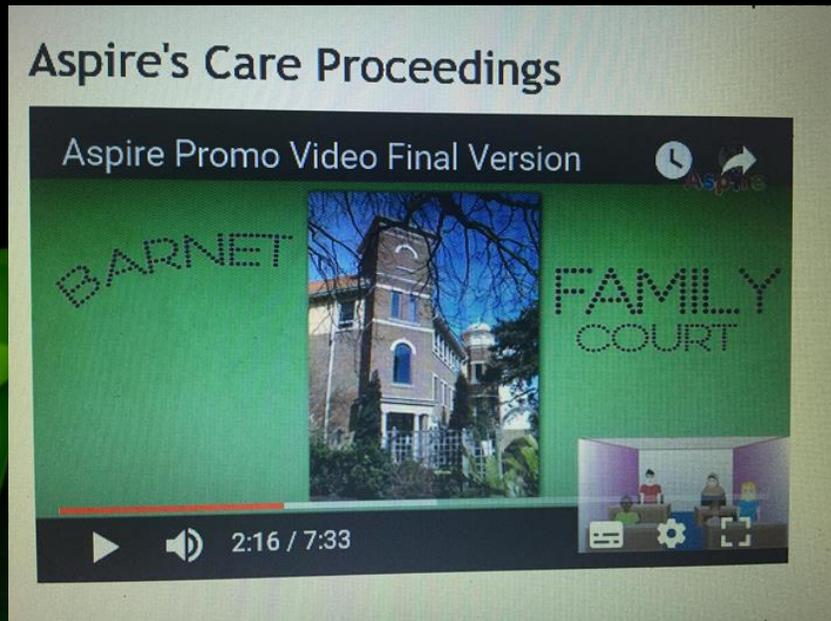
It also explains what family court is and who will be involved in the decision making process.

Aspires involvement;

Aspire helped to write the script and name the characters.

Some Aspire members voices are in the film as characters asking questions.

This project helped to work on communication and teamwork skills.



Emily's story

In 2015 Aspire

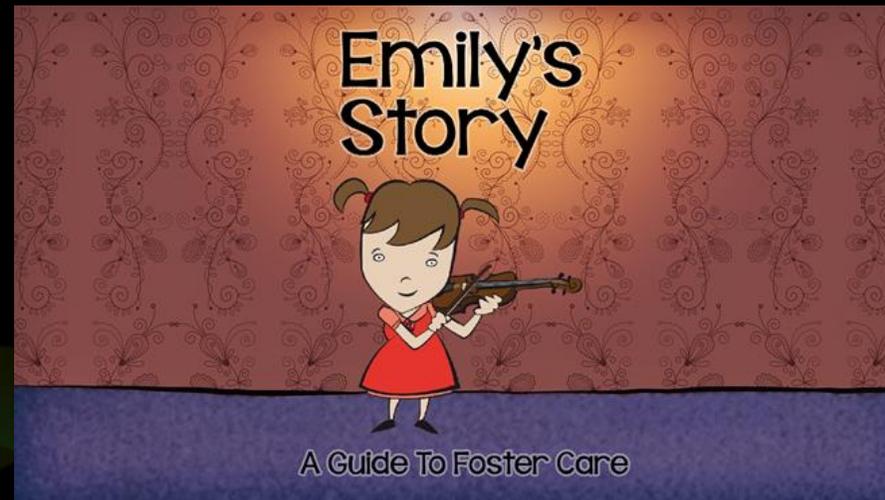
worked with a company called Exposure to create a short film which every child that enters the care system has the opportunity to watch to find out information every child in care should know.

Such as;

- What money they are entitled to
- What foster care is
- What will happen as they get older

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrIPK73c6vc>

Not only did Aspire help to write the script for this short movie many skills were gained. Working with an established production company gave the young people interested in film a good platform to ask questions and learn from. It was also very informative for all the young people as even some of the older members did not know all the information included in the video and ultimately this is what aspire wants to prevent from happening in the future. Every child should know what their rights and entitlements are from the moment they enter the care system and these should be revisited regularly



ASPIRE PLEDGES

Aspire created 7 pledges, these pledges have been agreed upon by Aspire and Haringey's senior staff, and so should be upheld by of Haringey's corporate parents. These pledges are essentially a set of promises that the corporate parents should adhere to in order to fulfil their duties as a corporate parent.

These are the umbrella categories that the pledges fall under, each category has its own sub section.



Staying safe

Inclusion and your identity

Health and well being

Wishes and feelings

Education

Rights and entitlements for children in care and care leavers

Complaints procedure

STAYING SAFE

- ❖ We will make sure that your social worker visits you once during the first week of your placement and then at least every 6 weeks after.
- ❖ We will only change your social worker if absolutely necessary and informing you of these changes and outlining the reasons why it has happened will be a priority.
- ❖ We will raise awareness of issues that place children and young people at risk so they can make choices about how to keep themselves safe.
- ❖ If we feel that you are not safe, we will speak to you and make appropriate decisions for your safety and wellbeing.
- ❖ We will try our best to place you as close to your family as possible if that is what you want and it is in your best interests.
- ❖ We will place you in a welcoming home.

Inclusion and your identity

- ❖ We will make sure that you are able to request to 'Stay Put' with your existing foster carers, if you wish, up to the age of 21 and we will try our best to make that happen.
- ❖ We will make sure you are up to date about local activities for children and young people.
- ❖ We will help you to get a passport, NI number and all other forms of identification when you are legally allowed obtain them.
- ❖ We will give you the opportunity to learn about your culture.
- ❖ We will support you in identifying/expressing all elements of your identity.
- ❖ We will help you understand your journey through care.

Health and well being

- ❖ We will make sure that you receive a health assessment once a year (Under 5's will be assessed every six months) and support you in accessing all health services that you need.
- ❖ We will help you understand your own health needs, physical, mental and emotional.
- ❖ We will help you access leisure and sports activities, school holiday activities and weekend activities and trips.
- ❖ We will ensure that you receive regular dentist appointments.
- ❖ We will encourage you to access age-appropriate help with your mental and emotional wellbeing, including CAMHS/mental health services and/or counselling.

WISHES AND FEELINGS

- ❖ We will ensure that your voice is listened to at all stages of your time in care and leaving care, including through our Children in Care council.
- ❖ We will ensure that your social worker operates in a child centred way, puts your needs first, and listens to your wishes and feelings.
- ❖ We will celebrate your achievements and provide opportunities for you to share those achievements with others.
- ❖ We will manage your leaving care transition sensitively, ensuring your social worker and personal advisor work closely together.
- ❖ We will make sure there are various channels in which you can communicate your thoughts and feelings; this could be through your social worker/ personal advisor (PA), through consultations/questionnaires, an advocate or Aspire. We will make sure you can meet with your Independent Reviewing Officer before your review to share your thoughts and feelings.



Education

- ❖ We will provide support from Haringey Virtual School so that you can achieve the best results overall, including access to equipment and resources that are essential to your success.
- ❖ We will ensure that you have access to advice and guidance in order to help you plan your future career.
- ❖ We will support you post-16 into further education, university, training or employment.
- ❖ We will make sure that you have accommodation available during holidays if you decide to go to university outside London.
- ❖ We will always try to help you to go to good/outstanding schools where you live.

Rights and entitlements for children in care and care leavers

- ❖ We will explain what it means to be in care and what to expect throughout your time in care. When you leave care we will help you understand how to look after yourself. Your social worker should explain what a pathway / care plan / PPG / PEP meeting is and revisit regularly, checking your understanding.
- ❖ We will make clear to you your rights and entitlements, and your social worker or PA will help you to understand what is available at each stage.
- ❖ We will help you become more independent and empower you to learn skills that will help you in future, for instance workshops on housing and money management.
- ❖ We will work with you to find suitable/safe accommodation and help you to maintain your tenancy when you leave care.

Complaints procedure

- ❖ We will provide or let you nominate someone neutral to speak to about any concerns you have and ensure you have the information you need to contact them.
- ❖ If you are not happy with your social worker / PA, you or an adult you trust will be able to contact their manager easily and arrange a meeting with them if you want.
- ❖ The manager will get back to you within 2 working days and give a time frame for responding to the issues you have raised.



Thank you!

Aspire

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

