

Tell your MP your

Hope and Dreams for 2017!

What are you hoping for next year?

MPs (Members of Parliament) are people who make the laws and rules about people's lives and how things work where you live. This includes rules about how care works, so we want you to tell your MP what's important to YOU!

We'd like you to write a letter to your MP, telling them what you would like to happen in 2017. You can include things you're hoping for, things about care that you would like to make better or change, or things that you would like to stay the same. MPs are not magicians, and they won't be able to make change instantly, but let's make sure they know what matters to you!

So what do you need to do to get involved?

There are instructions to help you write your letter below and a page for you to write your letter on in this pack. You can decorate the letter, draw a picture of yourself, or something or someone who is important to you. MPs get a lot of really boring post so this will really make your letter stand out!

If you send your letter to our freepost address we will send your letter to your MP ourselves and we will also be able to see for ourselves what is important to you for 2017! **Freepost, Who Cares?**

What to put in your letter

Match the coloured circles with those on the letter page:

- Your address so your MP can write back to you
- The date you wrote the letter
- The name of your MP. Find yours here: theyworkforyou.com/mps
- Introduce yourself. Maybe describe your hobbies, who you live with, or your favourite food!
- What you're looking forward to in 2017 - for example, it might be playing football, a holiday, or learning an instrument
- Explain how your life in care might be better in 2017. It might be about family contact, moving schools, anything that matters to you. Try to explain why it's important to you and how it makes you feel
- Tell your MP one final thing, or maybe say that you hope that they had a nice Christmas. Or even wish them a happy 2017!
- Finish the letter! You could end with: 'Yours sincerely' or 'from'. Don't forget to include your name and age!

Remember, MPs can only do their jobs well if they understand what people think about the rules and laws they make. You are an expert on what being in care is like. This is a great chance to share what you think with the people in power!

Don't miss it!

Hope and Dreams for 2017!

Instructions
for
carers
and
workers

Connect children in care with their MP

This is a project to connect children in care with their MP. The Government is their corporate parent and any good parent should know what's important to the children that they look after. We're just joining the dots to increase awareness of the issues children in care face so that they can play an active role in bringing about the improvements in the care system that matter most to them in 2017.

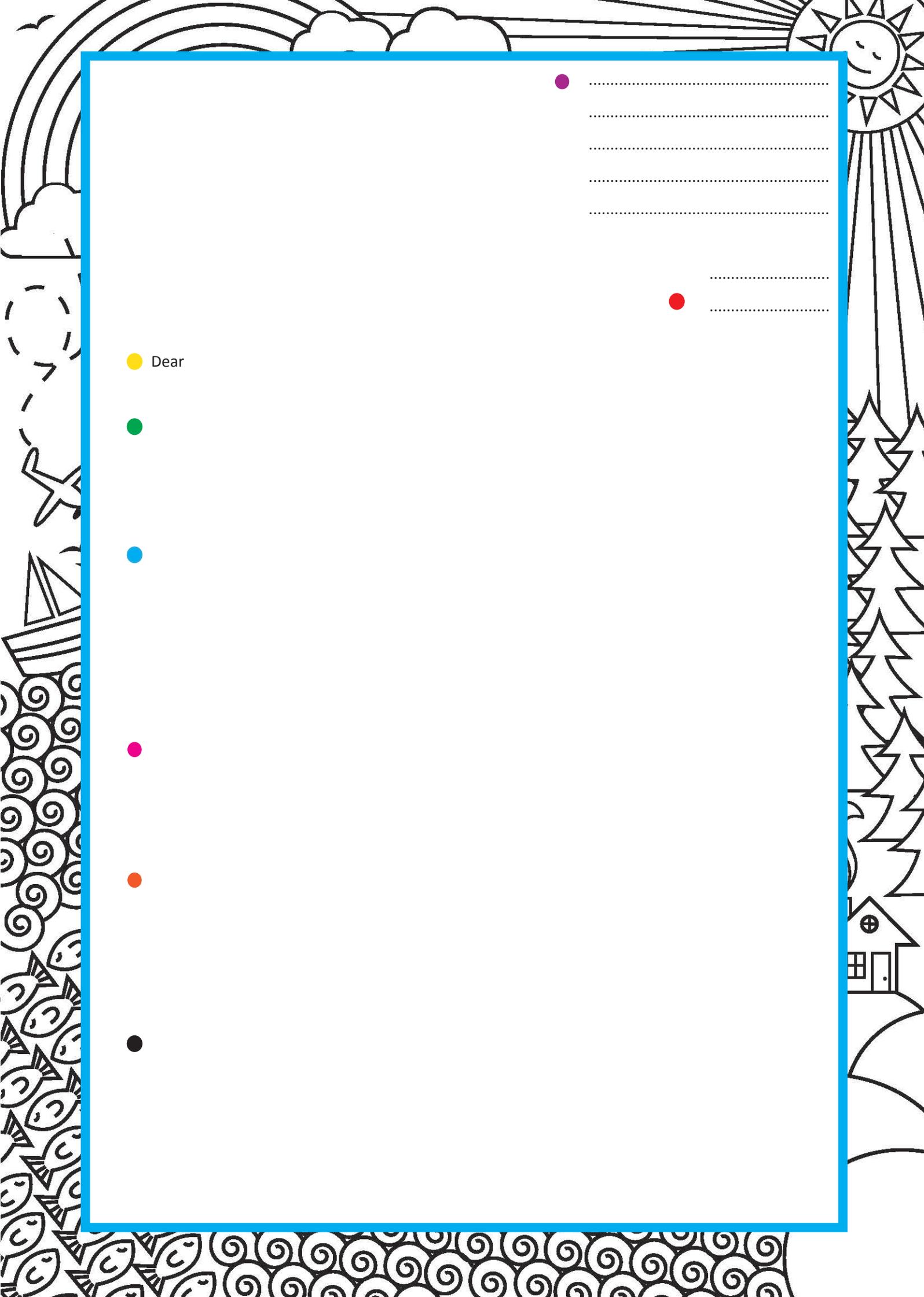
This is a hugely powerful way of showing MPs what matters to children in care and we would encourage you to support children in this activity. We will encourage MPs to write back but please do manage the children's expectations.

How it works

1. Help your young person to write about their hopes and dreams, for them and the care system. They can also decorate the letter by colouring in the boarder art or they could even draw a self-portrait.
2. Send the letter, picture, and consent form (this is very important) to:
Freepost, who Cares?
3. We'll send the letters to the child's MP, with a covering letter explaining what it's like to be in care and why it's important that they reply. We will also write to Edward Timpson MP, the Minister with responsibility for children in care, as well as those with responsibility for these issues in other political parties, to let them know our hopes and dreams for children in care in 2017.
4. Throughout 2017 we'll use the letters to remind MPs and decision makers about the issues that should be at the forefront of their minds. They will also inform our policy work at Become, and we'll be spreading the word by sharing the children's messages on our social media channels and our website.

Letters can be typed if preferred, but please then print them off and send them with the consent form and picture.

Thank you for taking the time to support children to have their voices heard!

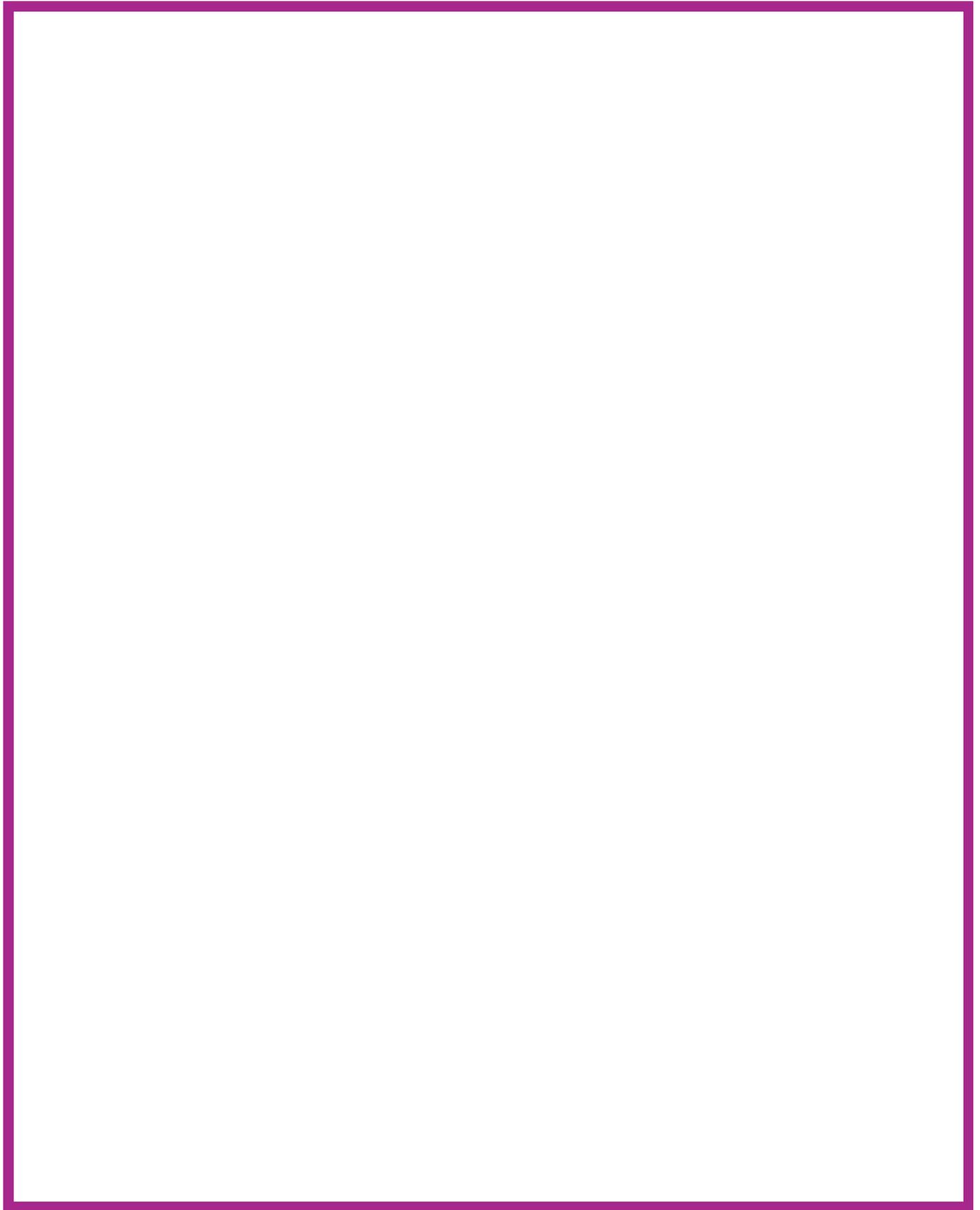


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Dear





My picture is of:

Name:

Age:

*Tell your MP your
Hopes and Dreams for 2017*

Hope and Dreams for 2017!

Consent form - must be returned with the letter/picture

Name of the child:

Name of carer/worker:

Local authority:

Contact email address:

Contact number:

I agree that Become can (tick all that apply)

- Send my letter to my MP on my behalf
- Scan a copy and keep it securely
- Use quotes from the letter in promotional activity (inc. social media and magazines)
- Use an image of the letter and/or self-portrait in promotional activity (inc. social media and magazines)

I understand that Become will only use my first name and age, and will obscure any address or other identifying information in the letter if it is used in promotional activity.

Agreement of the parent/carer/supervising social worker if the young person is under 16. Or if you are over 16, please fill in the questions below to give your consent

Name:

Relationship to child:

Signed:

Date:

BECOME.

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS