



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

YOUR GUIDE TO CARE MATTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A BRIDGE TO A BETTER FUTURE

RESPONSE FORM

JUNE 2007

Your Views on Care Matters

We are very interested in your opinions and ideas on everything we have looked at in 'Care Matters in Northern Ireland'. However, if you are only interested in one area or you do not want to answer all of the questions, that's fine. Feel free to answer as many questions as you like.

Any information you give us in your reply will come under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please read page 19 for information on what this means.

Name:

Age:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Please tell us why you would like your reply to be confidential:

Please note that this may not prevent your reply being made available under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. We have to decide if we should release information, whether the confidential box is ticked or not.

New Structure/Teams: The Changes

The development of new gateway teams to act as a 1st point of contact for families and children looking for help and support from Social Services.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

A new family support & intervention team to provide services to families whose children are at risk of coming into care

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Specialist looked after children teams who will only work with children and young people living in care

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

A new Throughcare Transition Team who will work all young people aged 16+ but could work with young people to help them get skills for adulthood from the age of 13.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Family Group Conferencing: The Changes

Family Group Conferencing will explore the possibility of you being placed with family or friends before you are placed in residential care or with foster parents.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Coming into Care: The Changes

Social services will give families help and support to stay together.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

A six week assessment will be done by social services to help you get 'matched' to the right placement and live somewhere long term.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Once a placement has been found for you, you will have regular visits from your social worker. Some of these visits should involve outings and activities with you to help you and your social worker get to know each other and build a good relationship.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not sure

My views

Foster Care: The Changes

Foster carers will get a handbook which tells them about your likes, dislikes, favourite toys, food, TV show and important people in your life etc.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Foster carers will be able to make more day-to-day decisions such as you going on a holiday, spending overnights with your friends, having your ears pierced or getting your hair done, attendance on school trips etc.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

If you have been placed with a kinship carer for one year or more your statutory visits from your social worker will be reduced from one a month to every two months.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not sure

My views

Contact: The Changes

Contact should always be discussed in LAC reviews, and it should be explained to you why you don't have contact with your family.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Contact with brothers and sisters and other family members should be a separate decision to contact with parents.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Young people should have contact with their families outside of social service offices

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Education: The Changes

Young people will have a personal education plan.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Teachers should have a good understanding of the care system, through more training.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Teachers should only be in LAC reviews when education is being discussed and should deliver an education progress report.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

When moving into care, every effort will be made to keep you in the same school if this is what you would prefer

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

If young people have missed time from school they should be supported to move back to school and catch up on the work they have missed.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Life Outside School and Care: The Changes

Social services should do all they can to get you involved in the activities you enjoy that don't have anything to do with being in care.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Carers will get some extra training so they can help and support you with issues such as sexual health, drink and drugs.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Care Plans: The Changes

If you have taken care of your younger brothers and sisters before coming into care your views should be sought in their care planning.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Courts should not make a care order until a care plan has been prepared by a Trust.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Trusts should ensure that you have a say in developing plans for your future and to discuss your views in a place that you feel comfortable in.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Trusts should take into consideration your views and opinions when making decisions about your care, and you should be informed as to why decisions have been made.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

An Independent Reviewing Officer will be employed to ensure that your care plan meets your needs and that your rights are being upheld by the Trust.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Reviews: The Changes

LAC Forms and documents used at the LAC Review will be re-designed to ensure you get the opportunity to record the things that are important to you so that you can be involved in decisions and plans.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

When you first come into care you should receive information on LAC Reviews and Care Planning.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You should be given the opportunity to spend time with your key worker or social worker to plan for your review.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You should be consulted about who will attend your LAC Review and where it should be held.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

More help should be given to staff in children's residential homes to help young people who get in trouble with the police.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Independent Advisers

Every young person will have access to an independent adviser to offer befriending, advice and support

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

The role of the adviser will depend on you. You decide what role the adviser plays in your lives, from short-term to a longer-term relationship.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Residential Care

Moving into residential care should be planned and you should be moved gradually into your placement.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Smaller residential units will be developed for young people aged 16-17 to help with the transition to independent living.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

The number of children and young people living in most children's home will be reduced to a maximum of four children per home.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You should have access to an advocate to ensure that you have the opportunity and support to make a complaint and put your views across.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Your key worker should support you with your education and be able to do things like sign permission slips for school.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Your residential unit should have the appropriate set-up to help you with your education, for example with suitable educational equipment or tutoring, if needed.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Leaving Care: The Changes

Your Pathway Plan should also include the support that should be put in place for you to maintain family contact.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

The age of residence orders will rise up to 18.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Support services, including specialist care and leaving care support, should be available to you and your carer.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Your Trust should make a referral to the Throughcare Transitions Teams when you are 13 to ensure you have enough preparation for independent living.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You will continue to have access to health professionals including those who work in mental health after you leave care.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You may remain with your former carers, if appropriate, up to the age of 21 years.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You should receive preparation when leaving care on: relationships, self- esteem and also practical and financial skills.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

You should have access to mentoring/peer education programmes that are designed to improve your self esteem and life skills.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

The Trust should ensure extra money goes to the Child Trust Fund accounts of young people in care. This means that an extra £100 per year will go into a young person's Child Trust Fund account for every year they are in care, which would be used to help you make the transition to independent living.

Good Idea

Bad Idea

Not Sure

My views

Published by:
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety,
Castle Buildings, Belfast BT4 3SQ

Telephone (028) 9052 2792

Textphone: (028) 9052 7668.

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

June 2007

Ref: 27/2007