

THE CHILDREN'S GUIDE

MY

JOURNAL

Place your
picture here

THIS IS ME

Name Age

I began my journal on

Being looked after

A NEW START

Hello my name is Shianne. I have been in care since I was 14 years old. Being labelled as a "care kid" doesn't sound great, believe me. I've had my share of good and bad days whilst being in foster care, but mostly good days, I'll have to admit! However, there has always been Voices of Care who has welcomed me and supported me ever since!

We would like to welcome you to this booklet and reassure you that coming into care isn't as bad as it sounds. There is always someone you can speak to e.g. your social worker, J.R.O, mentor, foster carer, friends and family. All these names may sound confusing at the moment but this booklet will explain what each person does and how they can help you.



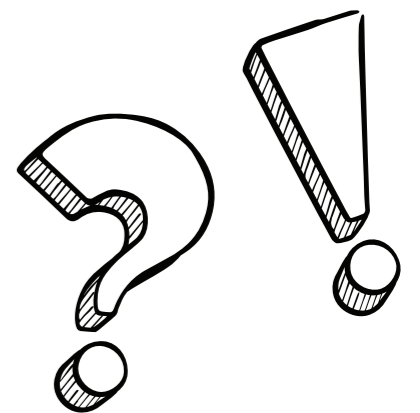
THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL AND IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED SO THAT YOU CAN USE IT TO WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE OR TO SHARE YOUR FEELINGS.

You can use it to show the people who are helping you so that they can understand how you are feeling. We want you to use this booklet so that you understand the changes that are happening in your life and are able to have a say in decisions being made about your life.



WHY AM I IN CARE?

These pages are for you and your social worker to record your history and how you came to be in care and your wishes for the future so that you are able to understand what has happened and why it happened. You can do this in any way you want e.g words and pictures, cartoon strip, a news report or diary.



Where will I live?

FOSTER CARE

FOSTERING MEANS GOING TO LIVE WITH A FOSTER FAMILY WHEN YOU CANNOT LIVE WITH YOUR PARENTS. SOMETIMES THIS IS CALLED 'GOING INTO CARE' OR BECOMING 'LOOKED AFTER'.

There are many reasons why children are fostered. It is your social worker's job to explain why you need to be looked after away from your family home. If you are finding it difficult to understand why then you can request an advocate to help you ask the right questions and get the right answers.

Your foster family will treat you as part of their family. If there are other children in their family, they will become your foster brothers and sisters. Being in foster care does not mean your parents and family do not love you and you may still see them. Your social worker may arrange time to see your family if you want to.

Coventry Children's Services will always try to support you to stay with your family, friends or other people connected to you. Where this is not possible, our fostering service will do our very best to make sure you can live with a foster family. We have written all about how our fostering service will support you in our Statement of Purpose for Coventry City Fostering Service.

WWW.FOSTERINGHANDBOOK.COM/COVENTRY/STATEMENT_PURPOSE.HTML

FOSTER CARERS

FOSTER CARERS ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND 'CHECKED OUT' TO MAKE SURE THEY CAN OFFER YOU A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE.

The size of the foster carers' family can vary just like the size of any other family. The important thing is that they will treat you as one of their family.

Before going to meet your foster family you should receive an information sheet with photographs of the family and their house.

Your social worker will take you to the foster carers home to meet everyone who lives there. You will be able to take your belongings with you.

You will be shown around the house, where you will sleep and where you can put your things. The house may feel strange and different at first but your foster carers will help you to settle in.

Every family has rules about what you can and can't do. Your foster family will agree the rules with you.

Young people in care described foster carers as someone who keeps you safe, supports you, loves you, gives you a warm and loving home and takes care of you!

CHILDREN'S HOMES

YOU MIGHT GO TO LIVE IN A HOUSE SHARED WITH OTHER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

This is called a children's home. It gives you a safe and happy place to live where grown ups will look after and help you. You will have your own bedroom and share some rooms with other children and young people who live there such as play rooms, kitchens and gardens.

MEET ELLA

ELLA IS 18 YEARS OLD NOW BUT HAS LIVED IN A CHILDREN'S HOME. ELLA WANTED TO SHARE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT A CHILDREN'S HOME WITH YOU:



You may go to live in a children's home. This is where you will likely live with other young people that are looked after. You may live with no one or you could live with three or four other young people. The people who work in these homes are called residential children's workers and their job is to keep you safe, make sure you are well fed and generally care for you and ensure your needs are met.

It's not like Tracy Beaker, so don't worry!

I lived in children's home and although at times it was difficult, it also gave me some of my favourite memories. There are likely to be young peoples meetings they might be called something different in your home, this is where all the young people in the home can come together and tell the staff what they want to change within their home. You should always attend these and make the home yours.

If you like a certain food, or need something for your religious needs then their job is to make sure that you have everything to make you comfortable. You will receive pocket money, a clothing allowance and a toiletry allowance for you to buy the things that you need. Sometimes this will need to be spent with your carer.

Although a children's home is not a family home, my best advice would be to remember that you have something in common with the other staff and young people... You all live or work in a home for children.

MY NEW HOME

Draw a picture or stick a photograph of your new home and all the people you live with.



Voices of Care Council

WHAT IS IT?

THE VOICES OF CARE COUNCIL IS AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COME TOGETHER TO MEET ONCE PER MONTH TO DISCUSS DIFFERENT ISSUES AND MAKE DECISIONS.

Voices of Care (V.O.C) try to represent the voice of children and young people in care. V.O.C talk to organisations and managers so that being in care can be made as positive as possible. It makes sure that young people in care can have access to the same opportunities as any other young person.

Many professionals and decision makers come to visit them to ask for their views.

HOW CAN IT HELP ME?

YOU CAN GET IDEAS AND THOUGHTS OFF YOUR CHEST AND SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS.

You get to meet other young people like you and make new friends. It can help you to get a better service and you can be directly involved in making changes to services so that they are better for children in care.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY ABOUT VOICES OF CARE:

"A place to make a change"
"Anything you want it to be - share your feelings/make a change/take a stand."
"A safe place to share your views"
"Fun!"

Come along to a meeting!

You can contact Voices of Care and find out when the next meeting is by emailing: voices@coventry.gov.uk

Find out more on the web: www.coventry.gov.uk/voices

Ask your social worker or carers to call us on: **024 7697 1842**

The Participation Service

WHAT IS IT?

THE PARTICIPATION SERVICE HELPS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES.

THEY TALK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR CARE AND SERVICES FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES IN COVENTRY TO MAKE SURE THEIR NEEDS ARE BEING MET.

Members of the participation service attend the Voices of Care Council meetings so that any ideas or issues raised are shared with important decision makers within Coventry City Council.

"Your Rights are our concern"



If you have an issue to raise or feel that you are not being involved in decisions made about your life please contact the participation service at:
voices@coventry.gov.uk

Ask your social worker or carers to call us on: **024 7697 1842**



Look at all the fun we have!

Participation



Who will visit me?

GUARDIAN

A GUARDIAN MAY VISIT YOU.

Your Guardian is independent of Coventry Children's Services. They share your views in court and make a recommendation about your care.

"They're a person you can rely on."

"They act as a person who can represent you."

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

THEY MAKE SURE PROFESSIONALS ARE DOING WHAT THEY SHOULD BE DOING TO MEET YOUR CARE PLAN NEEDS.

They will be at your Looked After Review every 6 months and will be in touch with you before each meeting to get your views about how things are going.

INDEPENDENT VISITORS

THESE PEOPLE ARE UNPAID VOLUNTEERS WHO ACT AS A MENTOR OR BEFRIENDER FOR YOU.

You get to choose your visitor and they are matched to you depending on shared interests. They will meet with you regularly to do fun and interesting activities. They sign up as a volunteer for at least two years and it is always the same person.

"An Independent Visitor is someone you can talk to and spend time with."

"An Independent Visitor is someone you can be adventurous with and do things you've never done before."

SOCIAL WORKER

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL CHECK ON YOU EVERY 4-6 WEEKS TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL.

If you are in a long term placement, visits will be every 6-8 weeks. Social workers work on behalf of the Local Authority (Children's Services) and are like your 'legal' parents.

They have a duty to make sure you are cared for and safe. You can talk to them about any worries and contact them in between visits if you need to.



My plans

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL DISCUSS YOUR PLAN WITH YOU. DURING THIS TIME YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL BE CONSIDERING THE BEST OPTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE SUCH AS WHERE YOU WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL CARE FOR YOU.

We will always try to do as much as possible so that you can stay with your family or other friends and family members.

We will be looking to see if...

- There is a family member who can care for you
- There is anyone else connected to you such as a family friend who could care for you
- You could live with a foster family
- A children's home would be able to support you
- An adoptive family would be able to care for you

EVERY CHILD'S SITUATION IS DIFFERENT AND THERE ARE LOTS OF OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED. YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL TALK THROUGH ALL OF THIS WITH YOU AND WILL WANT TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS.

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER MAY ALSO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR PARENTS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, SCHOOL AND OTHER IMPORTANT ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE TO GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU.

All this information will help them to write up a care plan and they will discuss this with you.

There will be times when everyone goes to court. In court your social worker will discuss what they think is the best care plan for you. Your guardian will be there to tell them what you think is best. Your parent's solicitor may also share their views on their behalf.

The court can grant the local authority (Children's Services) a legal order which will say what needs to happen to make sure you are safe.

Below and on the next page explains some of the different types of order and what they mean.

Parental Responsibility

People with parental responsibility can make decisions

WHAT THE WORDS MEAN!

Interim Care Order

An interim care order is time limited. It helps us to make sure that you are safe from risk of harm while your social worker is doing their assessment. We will put a plan in place to support you and your family before the next court hearing. During this time your social worker will be considering the best options for your future such as where you will live and who will care for you.

Care Order

A care order is a legal document, it allows the local authority to share parental responsibility and make decisions about your care.

Supervision Order

This means you will live with your family, but a social worker will stay involved during the time of the order. They will provide support but will not share parental responsibility.

Placement Order

This means it isn't safe for you to live with your parents so you may live with a foster family. A placement order will allow the local authority to look for an adoptive family for you.

Care Plan

This is the plan your social worker will write that describes what support you need for things to improve and for your life to be the best possible. This plan is checked and reviewed at your Looked After Child Review (LAC review).

Final Court Hearing

This is when everyone goes to court and the judge decides on the final decision about your care.

Powers of Police Protection

The police can sometimes decide that a child is at immediate risk of harm or has been harmed. They may move you to a 'place of safety' using power of police protection.

DIRECT WORK

DIRECT WORK ARE SESSIONS YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL DO WITH YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FEELINGS AND VIEWS ARE.

Your social worker will want to hear about any problems you are having and also what you want for the future. They will work to support you to achieve the things that you want in your life.

LIFE STORY WORK

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL HELP YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR OWN LIFE STORY BOOK.

This is a book about your life and your family background. It will help you to understand why you came into care and you can choose to explore your cultural or religious background. This is your choice and you can ask your social worker to do this with you at a time when you are ready. This should be completed in a way that you choose.

YOUR CARE PLAN

YOUR CARE PLAN IS ABOUT ENSURING YOU HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE AND LOOKS AT WHAT SUPPORT YOU MIGHT NEED.

Your social worker will ask you what your wishes and feelings are and this will be important in deciding what happens.

When you have your Looked after children's review (LAC) meetings your care plan is discussed and agreed.

Your Independent Reviewing Officer (I.R.O) will make sure that the things that were agreed in your care plan are happening.

Remember, it is important to have your views included in your care plan.



QUESTIONS FOR MY I.R.O

Use this space to write your questions or things you want to say in the speech bubbles so that you don't forget. You might want to show your I.R.O when they visit you.

1. *What's working well?*

2. *What am I worried about?*

3. *What needs to happen?*

Looked After Children Review

OVERVIEW

A LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEW IS A MEETING THAT HAPPENS WITHIN THE FIRST 20 WORKING DAYS AFTER YOU BECOME LOOKED AFTER (YOU MIGHT ALSO HEAR THIS CALLED A LAC REVIEW).

Your Independent Reviewing Officer (I.R.O) will contact you to discuss your meeting with you beforehand.

People that you might want at your meeting are:

- You
- Your social worker
- Your school
- Independent reviewing officer
- Your carer
- Your parents
- And any other important person in your life

The person who leads this meeting is your I.R.O. Your I.R.O's job is to make sure your care plan is meeting your needs and that professionals are doing what they should be doing. You should be fully involved and consulted in decisions made about your life. Your I.R.O will make sure that you understand what is happening and why. Your I.R.O will look at what's working well, any worries and what needs to happen. In Coventry something called the 'Signs of Safety' approach is used to support children, young people and their families.

In your review meetings we will talk about 'signs of success'. You can read more about signs of safety later in this journal.

SHARING YOUR VIEWS

YOUR I.R.O WILL MEET WITH YOU BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING SO THAT YOU CAN TELL THEM WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE THE MEETING TO BE HELD.

This could be at your school, home or their office. You can share with them how you would like the meeting to be and discuss which people you would like to be there and which parts of the meeting you want them to be at. You could also decide that you want some people to attend a different meeting on a different day. It's your meeting... it's up to you!

If you do not want to be at your meeting you can still share your views either by requesting an advocate to attend on your behalf or by asking a trusted person to share your views for you.

Your I.R.O will stay in contact with you to see how you are getting on. They will also keep checking with your social worker to make sure that what people say they will do for you, gets done.



Signs of Safety

WHAT IS IT?

SIGNS OF SAFETY IS A WAY THAT PROFESSIONALS CAN WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

It involves helping the children and family to recognise what's going well for them as well as exploring any dangers or risks to their child.

This approach is about supporting you, and your family, to share your views about what needs to change and the best way that safety can be achieved.

Your review meetings with your I.R.O will follow a signs of safety format and will discuss the points in the speech bubbles:

1. *What's working well?*

2. *What am I worried about?*

3. *What needs to happen?*

HOW DOES IT WORK?

SIGNS OF SAFETY USES A SCALE TO HELP CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS THINK ABOUT HOW WELL THINGS ARE GOING NOW AND WHAT WOULD NEED TO HAPPEN TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.

You might see a scale like this one and be asked to score how your life is now with 0 being really bad and 10 being really good. Then you might be asked to think about what needs to happen to make your life and the score better and what needs to happen to stop it from getting worse.

HERE TO HELP!

YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WILL USE DIFFERENT WAYS TO HELP YOU TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS FROM DRAWING, WRITING OR TALKING.

You can decide what best helps you to share your thoughts about what you need.

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0



My Education

WHO CAN HELP?

SOMETIMES IN SCHOOL YOU MIGHT NEED HELP WITH YOUR LEARNING, MAKING AND KEEPING FRIENDS, OR BOTH.

To help you, a special meeting will be held each term. This is called a Personal Education Plan meeting (P.E.P). This meeting is supported by the Coventry Virtual School who is responsible for co-ordinating your education.

PERSONAL EDUCATION PLAN

YOUR SCHOOL WILL HOLD A P.E.P MEETING ONCE A TERM.

Before the meeting you will be asked your thoughts about school and discuss how your learning is going. You can give your view on the support that you need to make progress. In the meeting, your teacher(s), social worker and carer will discuss how you are doing in school. They will identify things that are going well and also talk about where some extra help may be useful. Depending on your age, people might also talk about your future plans; college, career aims, etc.

Targets will be set for next term to help you make extra progress in school.

School receives extra money from the Virtual School to help you reach these targets and be successful in school. If extra work with a particular subject might help, school might also arrange tuition for you.

DESIGNATED TEACHER

THERE ARE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF STAFF IN SCHOOL WHO YOU CAN TALK TO ABOUT ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE BOTHERING YOU.

Of course, you can also talk to them about good things too! One of these people is called the Designated Teacher.

MENTORS

THE LEAD MENTOR PROVIDES LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, AGED 10-21 YEARS, WITH A PERSONAL MENTOR.

You will be able to talk to your mentor in private about any subject.

Next step mentors help you when you are older when making decisions about what you want to do after school. They can give you advice and guidance on careers and help you make a plan to fulfil your aspirations for the future around work or training.

Your own school may also have Learning Mentors who can support you on a 1:1 basis or in your classroom. You can request this support at your P.E.P or LAC reviews.

"The designated teacher is a member of staff who is there for you"

"Your school will have meetings to talk about how to support your learning. You can discuss how you feel about your progress in this meeting."

"I struggled with maths but I have extra tuition now and it has really helped"



The Mentor Service

WHAT IS IT?

THIS SERVICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A VOLUNTEER MENTOR WHO CAN MEET WITH YOU REGULARLY ON A 1:1 BASIS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ADVICE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE ON ANY AREA YOU FEEL YOU NEED IT.



HOW CAN THEY HELP?

THEY CAN HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION AND LISTEN TO YOU.

They can help you plan for your future and arrange visits to organisations and professionals in jobs that you might be interested in.

They can support you when you move from primary to secondary school, school to college or later to university.

The support provided is different for every young person. It depends on what you need and is led by you.

WHO WILL MY MENTOR BE?

MENTORS ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE RECRUITED BY THE LEAD MENTOR.

They are trained to support you and they are especially matched to you so that you may share interests, likes and dislikes.

HOW CAN I GET A MENTOR?

YOU CAN REQUEST A MENTOR YOURSELF OR YOUR SCHOOL OR SOCIAL WORKER CAN MAKE A REFERRAL FOR YOU TO BE MATCHED TO A MENTOR.

✉ katy.dolden@coventry.gov.uk
☎ 024 7697 2565

"I see my mentor more as a friend than a professional. She is there to support me when I need it and she lets me talk about any worries I have so I don't have to deal with them on my own."

**LEAH AGED 17,
VOICES OF CARE MEMBER**



Will I see my family and friends?

LIFELONG LINKS

LIFELONG LINKS IS A PROJECT THAT CAN HELP YOU TO EXPLORE YOUR IDENTITY AND ANY FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUPPORT NETWORK YOU MIGHT HAVE.

It can help you to understand why you became looked after. You can be referred to Lifelong Links anytime before you turn 18. You can talk to your social worker about whether you meet the criteria for referral to Lifelong Links.

You will be supported to explore who you are by outlining any family members you know of and would like to make contact with. You can talk about places you have lived and any schools and clubs you attended as well as friends that you might have lost touch with.

You will have a co-ordinator who will guide and support you through the whole process who you can meet with as often as you like.

YOUR CO-ORDINATOR WILL HELP YOU TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE THAT YOU MAY HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH AND EXPLORE WHETHER CONTACT CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED.

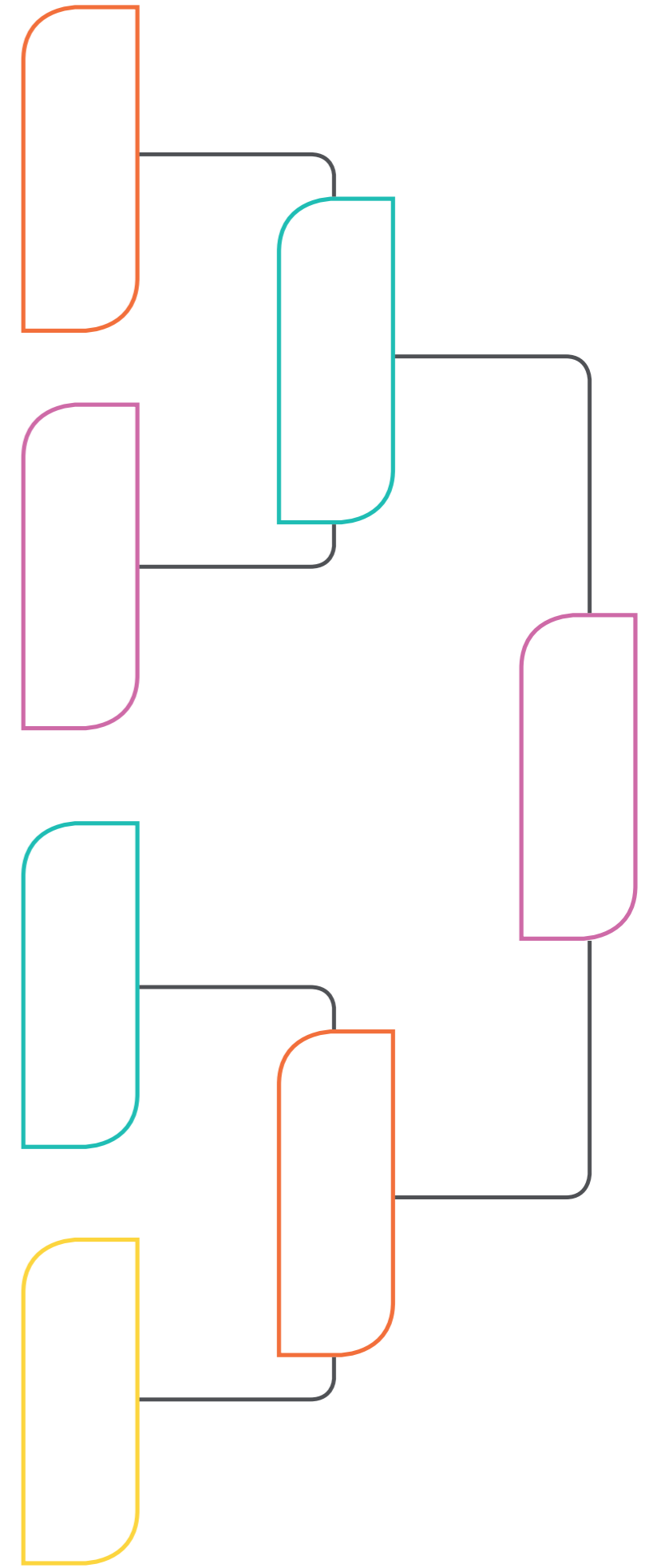
They will help you build a network and decide what kind of contact you would like e.g. phone contact.

This is completely led by you. Your co-ordinator will only contact the people you want them to.



MY FAMILY TREE

This template is for you to start your family tree if you want to. Your name goes in the box at the bottom, your birth parents above you, then their parents. You can add extra boxes for brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles if you need to.



Lifelong Links

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR FAMILY TREE YOU CAN STOP THERE OR YOU CAN ASK YOUR CO-ORDINATOR TO SET UP A MEETING CALLED A FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE (FGC).

This is a meeting that brings together any of the people you have identified that you would like to re-establish contact with. Your meeting is planned by you with the help of your co-ordinator.

You choose:

- Who to invite
- Where the meeting takes place
- How you want the meeting to run e.g. do you want a 1:1 with anyone?
- During the meeting you can choose to have a break or end the meeting at any time

THE FGC WILL HELP YOU TO SHAPE A PLAN FOR HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH OR HOW INVOLVED YOU WANT PEOPLE TO BE.

This will then be included in your care plan and reviewed at your LAC review meetings.

Life Long Links has psychologist support available to help you manage any emotions, worries or issues you might need help with during the process.

Ask your social worker to refer you to Lifelong Links!



QUESTIONS FOR MY SOCIAL WORKER

Use this space to write your questions or things you want to say in the speech bubbles so that you don't forget. You might want to show your social worker when they visit you.

1. *What's working well?*

2. *What am I worried about?*

3. *What needs to happen?*

Barnardo's

Children's Rights and Advocacy

WHAT IS IT?

BARNARDO'S IS AN INDEPENDENT SERVICE WHICH MEANS THEY ARE NOT PART OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

They can help you if you feel you have been unfairly treated or not listened to. Your social worker should talk to you about what an advocate is and whether you would like one to help with something specific.

HOW CAN THEY HELP?

AN ADVOCATE IS SOMEONE WHO SPEAKS UP FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

They can get involved to help you with a problem. They can attend meetings with you or speak on your behalf if you don't want to attend the meeting.

They would meet with you beforehand to find out about your wishes and feelings and any issues that you want them to raise in the meeting on your behalf.

They can talk to professionals about how you want to share your views in meetings or organise who does and doesn't attend the meetings.

They can help build your confidence when sharing your views.

BARNARDO'S ADVOCACY SERVICE

AN ADVOCATE WORKS FOR YOU AND NOT THE PROFESSIONALS.

Any adult can request an advocate on your behalf or you can contact us yourself. Advocates can help if you want to get your opinion heard by people who make decisions about you.

BARNARDO'S PARTICIPATION GROUP

BARNARDO'S HAVE A CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP CALLED P-PALZ.

They meet in school holidays to share food and fun activities. The purpose of the group is for children and young people in care to discuss issues that affect them and come up with solutions that will make things better. If you would like to join this group contact Barnardo's by phone or email.

Believe in children
Barnardo's

Participation Group



It's your right to have an advocate. If you would like to find out more just email: Coventry&WarwickshireCRS@barnardos.org.uk or visit: www.barnardos.org.uk/coventry_and_warwickshire_crs or call: 08000 272 118

How to make a complaint

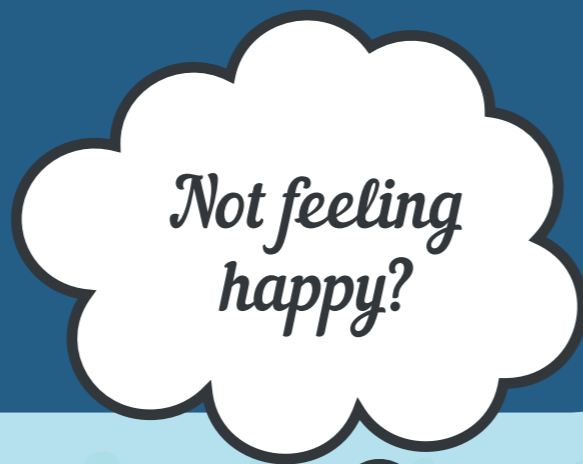
LET US KNOW!

COVENTRY CHILDREN'S SERVICES WANT TO KNOW IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY.

We want the opportunity to explain decisions that have been made about your life.

To make a complaint you can:

- Contact your social worker
- Contact your independent reviewing officer (I.R.O)
- You can request an advocate to help you give your views by emailing: **Coventry&WarwickshireCRS@barnardos.org.uk** or call: **08000 272 118**
- Email the children's complaints officer: **CLYPCustomerRelations@coventry.gov.uk** or call: **08085 834 333**
- Speak to the participation service who will help your voice be heard by emailing: **Voices@coventry.gov.uk** or call: **024 7697 1842**



Sharing your views and being involved

SHARING YOUR VIEWS

IN COVENTRY WE HAVE AN APP CALLED MIND OF MY OWN. YOU CAN USE THIS TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS AND NEWS WITH PROFESSIONALS THAT ARE SUPPORTING YOU AT ANY TIME.

You can directly message any of your workers your thoughts, achievements or worries.



To find out more, contact the Participation Team by emailing: **Voices@coventry.gov.uk** or call: **024 7697 1842**

MEETINGS

- Use Mind of My Own to give your views and feedback before and after meetings
- You can attend meetings and share your views
- You can request an advocate to attend meetings with you or on your behalf
- You can write down what you want to say and ask someone to share your view for you
- You can ask to meet with your social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer before the meeting to discuss your views



MONEY MATTERS

YOU WILL RECEIVE POCKET MONEY FROM YOUR CARERS.

Coventry City Council will also put money into an account for you to help pay for things like:

- Clothes and things you might need for school
- Presents for your birthday and other special occasions
- Hobbies or interests you have

If you have been looked after for longer than a year then a special bank account will be opened for you.

If your DOB is between 1/9/2002 to 2/1/2011 then you will have a Child Trust Fund (CTF) with £250 in it from the HMRC.

If you do not have an existing CTF, The Share Foundation will set up a Junior ISA with an opening balance of £200.

The council will add money to these while you are looked after and when you become 18 or leave care, you will receive a letter from the Share Foundation telling you how and when you can access it.

If you are over 12 years of age and have any questions about money you can contact throughcare@coventry.gov.uk or ask your social worker or personal advisor.

Useful contacts

THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND

This person speaks up for children and young people so that policymakers and the people who have an impact on their lives take their views and interests into account when making decisions about them.

If you have a general enquiry, or to get in touch with the Commissioner, please email or call:

✉ **info.request**
@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

☎ **020 7783 8330**

Help at Hand is an advice service for children living away from home or receiving services for children.

If you have an enquiry about Help at Hand, visit:

☎ **0800 528 0731**

Our address

📍 Children's Commissioner for England
Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

OFSTED

This organisation checks the work of children's services in England and Wales. Contact them:

✉ **enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk**

☎ **0300 123 1231**

Her Majesty Chief Inspector

📍 Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate, Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD

CAMHS - CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

CAMHS provide services to support children and young peoples mental health and wellbeing.

Where are we?

📍 Paybody Building, Byron Street
Coventry CV1 4FS

☎ **024 7696 1442**



