

Advice, Guidance and Further Support:

You may want to get independent advice from a Youth Advocate to help you fully understand what becoming a Child in Care means.

An advocate is someone who is independent from the council who can help you express your wishes and feelings and make sure you fully understand what is happening.



You can access free advice from the following services:

NYAS: 0800 808 1001 www.nyas.net

NYAS is a UK charity providing information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to children and young people.

CORAM Voice: 0808 800 5792

www.coramvoice.org.uk

Coram Voice will help you if you are in care, leaving care, have or need a social worker.

Coram Voice will get your voice heard, tell you about your rights, give you the support you need through their advocates and work with you to improve the care

Voiceability: 01529 400479 tvf@voiceability.org

Voiceability support people to be heard in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a Social Worker?

Someone whose job it is to support you and make sure you're safe, wherever you're living.

Who is an Independent Reviewing Officer?

Someone whose job it is to chair your meetings and ensure your Child in Care plan works for you.

What is a Leaving Care Worker?

An adult who will support you with any problems and guide you from the age of 16 to 25.

What happens when I turn 18?

This all depends on your individual circumstances and you should speak to the people above about what options are available to you.

Will my finances change if I become a Child in Care?

Please speak to your workers about your individual financial circumstances so they can give you accurate information.



Information on having a Social Care Assessment when you move into Supported Accommodation



Why do I need an Assessment and how will it be completed?

Now that you're living in Supported Accommodation, Children's Services must offer you an assessment to see what support you need. This is usually called a Child and Family Assessment. It is your choice whether you want an assessment to be completed.



Your assessment will be completed by a Social Worker. You will be required to meet with your Social Worker regularly to help them fully understand your needs. They will look at what support you may need and how they can support you to return home. If you cannot return home they will assess what support you may need in the future.

Your Social Worker will also want to talk to other people who support you or who have supported you in the past, this could include your family, network or other professionals.

During your assessment, there may be some things that are difficult for you to talk about. It is really important that you give your Social Worker as much information as possible about the reasons you are not living at home.

What happens when the assessment is finished?

Once your Social Worker has completed your assessment, there are four possible outcomes;

1

Your assessment might conclude that you have all of the support you need in place already so you don't need a Social Worker. Your Social Worker will hold a final meeting to agree an alternative plan with you and the other people who will carry on working with you. This will be a Team Around the Child Plan and meetings will take place every 4 - 6 weeks to review how everyone will support you.

2

Your assessment might decide that you should be considered a Child in Need of support and that a Social Worker needs to carry on supporting you. Child in Need meetings will take place every 4 - 6 weeks to plan how everyone will support you.

3

Your Social Worker might feel that you need more support from Children's Services. They will discuss your assessment with you. If you would like to be considered for Child in Care status, they will present your assessment to a panel of Children's Services Managers who will determine whether you need to become a Child in Care or not. If the panel feel you don't need to become a Child in Care, your Social Worker will discuss with you whether you will receive support as a Child in Need, or through Team Around the Child meetings.

4

If you decide that you do not want to become a Child in Care, your Social Worker will discuss this with you to understand your reasons for this.

What does it mean to be a Child in Care?

If you are a Child in Care, then;

- Children's Services from Lincolnshire County Council will support you.
- You will have a Social Worker who will visit you at least every 6 weeks.
- You will have a Pathway Assessment, and then a Pathway Plan, explaining how Children's Services will support you.
- You will have an Independent Reviewing Officer (an experienced Social Worker) who will chair your Child in Care Review Meetings to make sure that your plan works for you. The first will take place 28 days after you become a Child in Care, then 3 months later and then every 6 months.
- You will have a health check completed when you become a Child in Care. This will be reviewed that every 12 months.
- When you turn 18, you might be entitled to help and advice from the Leaving Care Service. They can help you as you become more independent. You can discuss this with your Social Worker.
- If you return to live with your family before you are 18, you will no longer be a Child in Care.

