

Parents and Carers: Information guide

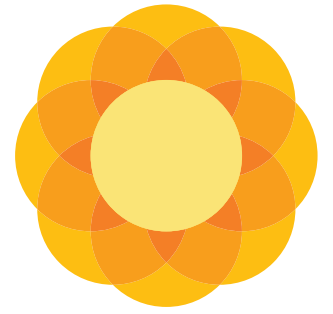
for your child's Children in Care Review

What happens
when your child
is in care



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST





Parents and Carers:

Information guide for
your child's Children in
Care (CIC) Review

**What happens when
your child is in care**



Children in Care reviews – up to 17 years of age

All children and young people that are in the care of Birmingham Children's Trust have a Children in Care (CIC) Review.

- The first review will be held within 28 days after your child goes into care.
- The second CIC Review will be held three months after this.
- Review meetings are held every six months after that.

The CIC Review will discuss your child's current situation, and agree a care plan that will meet the needs of your child whilst in they are in care. The care plan will also seek to prepare them for their future.

The meeting considers:

- Arrangements for their long term care needs (also known as plans for permanence)
- Arrangements for your children to spend time with and see you and, if appropriate, other family members
- Where your child currently lives
- Health
- Education needs

Did you know that your child should only move to another foster home after first having a review meeting to discuss it (unless it is in an emergency or when a child has been placed for adoption).



Your child's care plan

Here is a list of important things that government says you, or the review, should look at. They should all be covered in your child's care plan:

1. Any changes in your child's life since their last review.
2. Whether decisions from the last review have been followed; and, what effect have these had.
3. Whether the legal status is right for them or whether it should be changed.
4. Whether there is a plan in place to meet their long-term needs.
5. Whether seeing their friends and family is what they want, and what they need.
6. Whether where your child lives is still meeting their needs or whether there is somewhere more appropriate.
7. How they are making progress in their education and whether any changes are needed.
8. What leisure activities they are involved in and like doing.
9. How their health is doing and what needs to be done to make sure they can stay healthy.
10. Any help they might need in knowing and understanding who they are (like identity and culture).
11. What advice, support and assistance they might need if they're leaving care – what help they might need.
12. Have they been visited often enough by their Social Worker – do they listen to them.
13. Whether decisions for them have been taken and acted upon quickly enough.
14. Whether the care plan is best for them and for keeping them safe and if they are happy with it.
15. Whether an independent visitor should be appointed (this is a person who can visit them, as a friend, if they do not see their family often).



Independent Reviewing Officers

TEN important things to know about Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO):

- 1.** If a child is in care, Birmingham Children's Trust must appoint an IRO for them. This is the person whose job it is to monitor and scrutinise that the Trust does what is best for your child whilst they are in care.
- 2.** The IRO chairs your child's Children in Care reviews – and will work with your child to ensure they can take part in their review.
- 3.** If they have brothers and/or sisters in care, they will usually all have the same IRO.
- 4.** Your child should know who their IRO is and how to make contact with them.
- 5.** As far as possible (depending on the IROs continued availability) your child will keep the same IRO for the whole time that they are in care.
- 6.** If a young person is a parent in Local Authority Care, the young person and their child who is also in care, will both have different IROs.
- 7.** They should be given written information explaining the role of the IRO, and telling them what they can do if things decided at the review aren't carried out, or if they strongly disagree with what is being decided.
- 8.** The IRO should meet with them in person before the first review.

What to do

Add your thoughts on the following pages, using the question prompts if they are of help. Then, either bring this booklet containing your notes with you to the review, or give it to your child's Social Worker if they will be attending on your behalf. If you need more space for your thoughts, use separate sheets and include them with this booklet.



Have your say consultation

A handy helper for your child's review.

Your name:

Your child's name:

Your email address:

Date of review:

Social worker:

Your child's plan

Add your thoughts and views here for use at your child's review or tick the boxes that apply.

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1. Has your child's social worker discussed your child's care plan with you?

Yes No Don't Know

2. Have you had any involvement in the plan?

Yes No Don't Know

3. Do you have any views on the plan?

Yes No Don't Know

If 'yes' please state below:

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Have your say continued...

Where your child lives

Add your thoughts and views here for use at your child's review or tick the boxes that apply.

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4. Are you happy with where your child is living?

Yes No Don't Know

5. Do you have conversations with the carers?

Yes No Don't Know

6. Do you have any concerns or compliments?

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Seeing your child

Add your thoughts and views here for use at your child's review or tick the boxes that apply.

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Have your say continued...

7. Are you happy with how often you see your child?

Yes No Don't Know

8. Can you travel to the venue?

Yes No Don't Know

9. Are you made welcome?

Yes No Don't Know

Our performance

Add your thoughts and views here for use at your child's review or tick the boxes that apply.

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10. Do you have regular contact with your child's social worker?

Yes No Don't Know

11. Does seeing your child help you feel involved with their plan?

Yes No Don't Know

12. Did the IRO speak with you before your child in care review?

Yes No Don't Know

13. Did you feel the chair helps you to contribute what you wanted to in the meeting?

Yes No Don't Know



Have your say continued...

How do you see the future?

Add your thoughts and views here for use at your child's review.

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Is there anything else that you want to tell us?

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Contact us

You can get in touch via email at: centralIROservice@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk or visit our website at: birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/

If you are unable to attend your child's review, you can phone and you can have your say to the IRO who will chair the meeting, or you can ask your child's social worker to share your views on your behalf.

If there is something that you don't understand, you should not worry and you should be able to contact someone to talk through it with them.

Contact details of the IRO:

Name:

Team:

Phone:

Contact details of the Social Worker:

Name:

Team:

Phone:





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