

Your life, Your care: 12-18 year old survey findings

Hello

Last year we asked children how they were feeling. You may have filled in the survey? If you did, thank you.

200 children filled in the survey and we have put together this amazing action plan to tackle what you said. Because of what you said, Oxfordshire County Council have decided to make some changes.

I hope you like it and the ideas to tackle what you said, in the 'We Will' section.

The survey was created with children in care to ask about the things that were important to them.

Please feel free to go through this survey with your Parents, Carers Social Worker or Personal Advisor.



You Said

What was good?

- Nearly all of you knew who your Social Worker was.
- Many of you knew you could speak with your Social Worker in private if you wanted to.
- Lots of you thought that the adults you lived with took an interest in your education.
- Lots of you had at least one really good friend.
- Most of you thought you got some chances to practice life skills, like cooking or budgeting.

What was bad?

- Over half of you told us you saw your brothers and sisters 'too little' or you were unable to see them.
- Some of you did not have a pet but wanted one.
- More of you in Oxfordshire felt you were not involved in Social Workers' decisions than young people in care in other parts of the country.
- Some of you could not access the internet at home.
- Some of you did not get a chance to explore the outdoors.

You Said

I want my social worker to tell me more about the decisions that she makes about me.

When adults ask me who I live with or where I live I feel embarrassed and I don't know what to say, so I usually say "it's complicated".

It's fantastic – it's changed me for the better.

I think young people should choose how often they see their family unless there is real danger.



We Will

- If you can't have a pet, we will help you spend time with animals, visiting farms, petting areas, etc. and try to match you with families who do have pets.
- Give you support to access the internet to play games and to study.
- Help you do more fun things, ensuring FUN and activities are part of your core planning – then help to make it happen for you.
- Talk to you about image, your feelings and how to deal with negativity, through talking to someone you really trust.
- Make reviews more informal, child friendly and if possible not in an office environment.
- Make sure we don't embarrass you if outside or with your friends, taking ID badges off and not talking about being in care with people around.

Your Life, Your Care: 8-11 year olds survey findings

Hello

Last year we asked children how they were feeling. You may have filled in the survey? If you did, thank you.

200 children and young people filled in the survey and we have put together this amazing action plan to tackle what you said. Because of what you said, Oxfordshire County Council have decided to make some changes.

I hope you like it and the ideas to tackle what you said, in the 'We Will' section.

The survey was created with children in care to ask about the things that were important to them.

Please feel free to go through this survey with your Parents, Carers. Social Worker or Personal Advisor.



You Said

What was good?

- Nearly everyone liked their bedroom, only 3 didn't.
- Most of you *always* felt safe where you lived, but 6 of you only *sometimes* felt safe.
- Many of you said you liked school.
- Some of you wrote about things going well and what you liked about where you lived.
- Nearly all of you had an adult you trusted.
- Most you knew who your Social Worker was.

What was bad?

- Some of you wanted to see your family more.
- Not all of you knew why you were in care – 13 of you were unsure.
- Some of you did not have a pet, but wanted one.
- A few of you wanted to have more fun.
- Not all of you felt included in the decisions Social Workers made.
- Lots of you often worried about your feelings or behaviour.

You Said

I'd like to see my family more because I miss them.

What would make care better?
Nothing really. I think it's perfect now.

Having more fun like going on holiday.

Would like to have more friends round my house.

We Will

- If you can't have a pet, we will help you spend time with animals, visiting farms, petting areas, etc. and try to match you with families who do have pets.
- We will listen to you and take you seriously in decisions being made, explain to you what an IRO* is, encourage you to use MOMO* and to be involved in CiCC (Children in Care Council).
- Help you understand your care plan and help you see your family and siblings much more, if you want to. If you can't see them, we will explain why.
- Do life story work with you and help you understand why you are in care and what that means.
- Help you do more fun things, ensuring FUN and activities are part of your care planning – then help to make it happen for you.
- Talk to you about your feelings and emotions and give you ideas in how to deal with them.

*An IRO is an Independent Reviewing Officer who chairs your reviews and talks to you about how things are going.

*MOMO is an app that you can use to send messages to Social Workers, IRO, etc. before your review. It's secure and confidential.

Your Life, Your Care: 4-7 year olds survey findings

Hello

Last year we asked children how they were feeling. You may have filled in the survey? If you did, thank you.

200 children and young people filled in the survey and we have put together this amazing action plan to tackle what you said. Because of what you said, Oxfordshire County Council have decided to make some changes.

I hope you like it and the ideas to tackle what you said, in the 'We Will' section.

The survey was created with children in care to ask about the things that were important to them.

Please feel free to go through this survey with your Parents, Carers, Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

You Said



What was good?

- Nearly all of you trusted the adults you lived with.
- Many of you liked your bedroom.
- Almost all of you felt safe where you lived.
- Some of you wrote about the fun things you liked doing (like playing and going places).
- Most of you liked school.
- Lots of you had a good friend.

What was bad?

- Some of you did not know who your Social Worker was.
- A few of you wrote that you wanted to see your family more.
- Lots of you told us that you did not know why you were in care.

You Said

It smells nice
at dinner.
Happy.

Why am I in
foster care?

All good. I don't
really understand
why I am in care
and why Mum and
Dad can't have me
to live with them.

**What would
make care
better?**
To live with all
of my brothers
and sister.

We Will

- Make sure you know your Social Worker and what a Social Worker does and will aim to send you a letter with their picture on before you meet them.
- Help you understand your care plan and help you see your family and siblings much more, if you want to. If you can't see them, we will explain why.
- Do life story work with you and help you understand why you are in care and explain what that means.
- Keep talking to you...and listen.
- Work with schools to identify any bullying and help you with any bullying at school, home or in the community.
- We will help you make and keep friends.
- Work with foster carers to help and support you.