

*This is the Lisa,
she is the Director
for Children's
services*



Lisa works with all the staff across children's services to help them to make the services that our children, young people and their families receive the best they can be. Today Lisa wanted to share some really important information about a survey that was completed by children and young people who are cared for by Oxfordshire. Lisa hopes you enjoy reading about the things that matter most to children and young people. You might even recognise some of the things you told us!

Coram Voice - Bright Spots Survey in Oxfordshire

What is Bright Spots

In 2024, you may have completed a survey called 'Your Life, Your Care'. This was a 'Bright Spots' survey and it was organised by Coram Voice. Coram Voice is a large organisation in England who ensure they promote children and young people's rights to be listened to. Children and young people who are cared for shared information on the things that were going well for them, but also the things that some were worried about.

Listening to our Children & Young People

212 of our children and young people we care for took the time to complete the survey. When we got all the answers back, we knew that it was really important information that would help us ensure that the care and support we provide is the best it can be. We are making sure that every social worker know about the things children and young people told us. We are also sharing your views far and wide across Oxfordshire. Thank you for sharing your views.

bright spots

The survey was created together with children in care to ask about the things that are important to them. Coram Voice and University of Oxford have done the same survey in other local authorities and will use everyone's responses to show what care is like for children across the country.

Your Life, Your Care survey – summary of findings (4-7yrs)



We asked you some questions about what life is like for you. We asked lots of children in care the same questions. Here is what you all told us.

YOU SAID

What's good about being in care?

- Most of you feel safe where you live.
- All of you feel settled at home.
- All of you have a good friend.
- All of you get to have fun at the weekends.
- All of you spend time outdoors at least once in the past week.
- All of you trust the adults you live with.

What's bad about being in care?

- Half of you have been in care for 3 years or more.
- Some of you don't like school very much.
- Some of you don't know why you are in care.
- 1 of you doesn't like your bedroom.

Your Life, Your Care survey – summary of findings (8-11yrs)



We asked you some questions about what life is like for you. We asked lots of children in care the same questions. Here is what you all told us.

YOU SAID

What's good about being in care?

- All of you 'always' feel safe where you live.
- Most of you feel settled at home.
- All of you have a trusted adult in your life.
- Just over half of you see your mum 'just the right amount' of time.
- All of you said that the adults you live with show an interest in your education.

What's bad about being in care?

- Some of you do not have a really good friend.
- Almost half of you say that you are afraid to go to school because of bullying.
- Almost a quarter of you have no face-to-face contact with either of your parents.
- Less than 8 in 10 of you know that you can speak to your social worker on your own.



In April-June 2024, we asked you some questions about what life is like for you to understand how we can make it better. We asked lots of children in care the same questions. Here is what you all told us.

YOU SAID

What's good about being in care?

- Most of you have spent time outdoors at least once in the past week.
- Almost all of you said that you were taught independence skills 'all/ most of the time' or 'sometimes'.
- Almost half of you saw your mum 'just the right' amount.
- Most of you that said you worried, reported that an adult was helping you with it.

What's bad about being in care?

- Less than three quarters of you 'always' felt safe where you lived.
- Less than two-thirds of you felt 'settled' at home.
- More than 1 in 10 of you did not have a really good friend.
- Just over three-quarters of you had a trusted adult in your life.



Thank you to all of you who answered the questions. It really helps us to understand how you feel. Because of what you told us; we will be making changes in the future.

We are Working with Youth Voices

When we got the feedback, we asked Youth Voices to help us. Youth Voices are a group of children and young people we care for. The group are helping us to understand what matters most to our children we care for, and they are helping to shape the services we offer. They have seen the survey report, looked at all the information and are now helping us to share the messages with social workers and other people across Oxfordshire. They are doing a brilliant job.

What Happens Next

We don't want children and young people to think that just because the survey has been completed that is the end of our learning. We will now be working with Youth Voices, our social workers and other key people from education, health and the police to ensure that we listen to what we have been told and do things better.

Further Information

If you want to find out more or get involved in Youth Voices, then please talk to your social worker, independent reviewing officer or carer. You can also find out more here: [Youth Voice | OXME.INFO](#). If you have access to a smart phone or a computer, you can also use the Mind of My Own app to share your thoughts and contact your social worker or independent reviewing officer. Sign up here: [One app](#)

I love the activities we do and the people who care for me.

My social worker is very friendly, and she always helps me.

I want them to make my life better.

I'd like to see more of my parents and my siblings.