

Participation Service Update


March 2023

Joy Bell
Participation Officer

Children (aged 4-17) have the opportunity to provide feedback at least once-yearly



My Social Worker works hard.



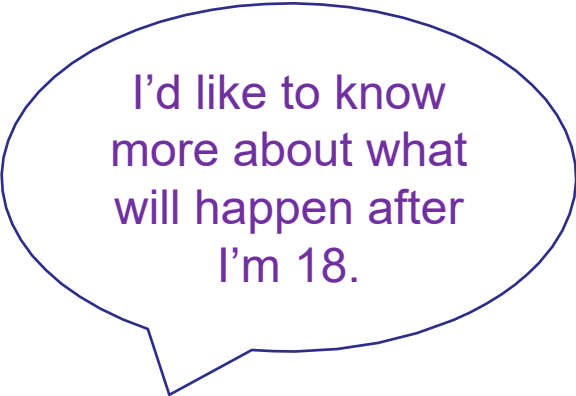
My football club is really important to me.



I love my Social Worker.



Stop changing my Social Worker!



I'd like to know more about what will happen after I'm 18.



My fostering placement scores 11/10.

Independent Feedback – Key Themes (Dec 2022 -March 2023)

- all young people could identify a safe, trusted adult with whom they could discuss their worries
- many young people sensed that their Social Worker was lacking time, “too busy” and “overburdened”
- many young people experienced struggles around professional rapport due to frequent changes of Social Workers
- some young people felt uncertainty around the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer – they knew who their IRO is but doesn’t understand their purpose
- all young people were satisfied with their placement

Since January 2023, we have:

- introduced a virtual feedback provision
- rolled out a free national gym membership, in partnership with Everyone Active
- begun hosting in-person Children In Care Council meetings
- Hosted and planned events and activities for children looked after – including Thorpe Park and Flip Out
- become an ASDAN member, with a view to rolling out Independent Living Skills books for care leavers

- Care-experienced art exhibition at Harrow Arts Centre
29th May – 4th June
- targeted programme of trips and activities for children looked after based on consultation with YP
- involvement of children and young people in contract monitoring and procurement
- introduction of a drop-in hour for children looked after and care leavers
- inclusion of Independent Living Skills booklets in housing processes