

# YOUR INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This leaflet explains how Worcestershire County Council makes plans for your care and how your independent reviewing officer reviews those plans with you and other important people to you and people working with you.

## YOUR CARE PLAN

Says how you will be looked after and what needs to be done for the plan to make you happy

Your care plan includes

- Who will look after you
- Where you will go to school
- When you will see your family
- How we can help you to enjoy your favourite sport or activity
- How we can make sure you are fit and healthy
- What will happen to you in the future.
- Your social worker must listen to you carefully and understand what is making you happy and what you are worried about, they must also listen to your family and talk to other people such as your teacher.
- When you are looked after there will be regular meetings this is known as a review meeting.



## PEOPLE WHO MAY COME TO YOUR MEETING

It is your meeting so it is important that you are there and there may be others there too such as your social worker Teacher IRO parents/carers and any other important person you would like there.

Important decisions are made at the looked after review about your life and to make sure everyone is keeping to what was agreed in the plan

## HOW OFTEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

The first looked after meeting is held within four weeks of you becoming looked after.

The second meeting is held three months after the first then every 6 months after that if you stay looked after.

If there are any changes to your care plan or things are not working out for you another review meeting may be held.



## INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

Every child or young person looked after must have an Independent reviewing officer (IRO) if you are looked after, it is their job to:

- Chair your review meeting or support you to chair
- Check that the care plan is the right one for you
- Most importantly make sure that everyone listens to what you have to say
- Make sure everyone else has their say
- Check that everyone is sticking to the agreed plan and doing what they said they would do.
- Check that there are clear plans for your future
- When reviewing your plan, the IRO will want to hear what has gone well and any areas of worry to make sure you get the support and help you need.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR MEETING

You are the most important person at the meeting but we do understand if you feel you cannot attend or worried about talking in the meeting you can ask for someone you trust to help you and you can stay for some or all of the meeting.

## AFTER YOUR LOOKED AFTER REVIEW MEETING

Your social worker or Carer or IRO should talk to you to ensure you understand what was discussed and what decisions were made this will be sent to you in writing and your carer or IRO can help you to understand what it says.