

# Looked after children's guide for reviews



## What is a looked after children's review?



A looked after children's review is a meeting which we, Children's Services, must hold for all children and young people who are looked after. Reviews give you the chance to say what you want to happen in your life.

2

## Why do I have to have a review?

Apart from the fact that, by law, we have to hold a review meeting for you, it is a chance for us to make sure that you receive the best possible care, for you to talk about any concerns you may have, and for us to plan together for your future.

## How often do I have a review?

How often you have a review depends on your situation and how long you have been in care. When you first come into care, you will have a review within 28 days, then one after three months. After this your review will be every six months, as long as there have been no major developments in your care. We may hold reviews more often than every six months, if we need to talk about specific issues about your care plan.

## Who goes to the review?

Your reviewing officer and social worker will be there along with your foster carer or key worker, depending on what type of placement you live in. Depending on what is happening in your life at the time of the review, other social-care staff may be there, such as your mentor (if you have one), your education advisor or the health nurse. Your parents may also be at the review. You can invite whoever you like to your review as long as it is appropriate and convenient for that person to come.



## Do I have to go?

You really should go because it's your meeting. This is your chance to get your views and opinions across and tell the adults at the meeting how you want your life to be. If you don't tell the adults your views, things might be planned that you don't agree with, which isn't fair on you. The decisions that are made at the end of the meeting are written down and used to plan how you are cared for until the next review. This is why it is really important for you to tell the adults your views.

## How can I take part in the review?

You can take part in your review in quite a few different ways. Being there is counted as a form of taking part (or 'participation'). You will get a chance to meet with your





reviewing officer before your review and talk to them about your wishes and feelings. If you like, you can write down your thoughts and feelings on a bit of paper and give it to your reviewing officer or your social worker. You can fill in the consultation papers that you have in your placement, or that we send you a few weeks before your review. We have special review consultation papers for different age groups. You can print them off our website or fill them in on-line and they will automatically get e-mailed to us.

All the answers you give will be given to your reviewing officer before your review. They will make sure the people at your review listen to and act on your wishes and feelings.



These are all good ways to make yourself heard. It's important to remember that this is your meeting – the adults that are there are there for you and it is their job to make sure you are kept safe and happy. If you don't tell the people at the meeting your wishes and feelings, things might get planned that you don't agree with.

## Where are reviews held?

Reviews are held in a few different places. They can be held where you are living, in an office or at your school. If you think of a place where you would like your review to be held, just let your social worker know and they will try and arrange this.

## What is the reviewing officer's role?



6

The reviewing officer is there to make sure that the decisions made about your care get carried out. The officer will listen to the people that make the decisions and ask the social worker or others to make sure they get done. You will be given an opportunity to speak to the reviewing officer alone before the review starts. They will ask you how things are and ask you how you are feeling.

## Can I chair the review?

Yes, if you feel confident and would like to help lead the review, the reviewing officer will give you the opportunity to do so. Remember that it's your review, so if you have any ideas on how it could be better for you, let the reviewing officer know and they will try and make sure that your ideas are acted on.



This leaflet is about a looked-after children's review. You can ask for this information in your own language by ticking one of the boxes, filling in your name and address and returning this form to the address at the end of the translations.

- Albanian** Kjo fletushkë është për shqyrtimin e fëmijëve nën kujdesje. Ju mund ta kërkoni këtë informacion në gjuhën tuaj duke shënuar njërën prej kutive. Plotësoni emrin dhe adresën tuaj dhe kthejeni këtë formular në adresën në fund të këtyre përkthimeve.
- French** Ce document concerne les enfants dont les services sociaux ont la responsabilité (« looked-after children »). Vous pouvez demander à avoir cette information en votre langue en cochant l'une des cases, en indiquant votre nom et votre adresse et en renvoyant cette fiche à l'adresse indiquée à la fin des traductions.
- Lingala** Mwa lokasa oyo ezali revue ya bana baye bakengelaka. Okoki kosenga information oyo na monoko nayo moko soki oponi yoko ya ba boites, okomi kombo na adresse nayo sima ozongisi formulaire oyo na adresse ekomami na suka ya ba ndemboli
- Polish** Niniejsz ulotka informuje o recenzji usług obejmujących dzieci wymagające troski (looked-after children's review). Aby uzyskać te informacje w języku polskim proszę zaznaczyć jedną z kratek, wpisać swoje dane oraz adres i odesłać ten formularz na adres poniżej.
- Portuguese** Este folheto dá informação acerca da revisão do processo de uma criança que está a ser cuidada. Pode pedir esta informação na sua língua ao colocar um sinal numa das caixas, preencher o seu nome e morada e devolver esta forma para o endereço no final destas traduções.
- Punjabi** ਇਹ ਲੀਫ਼ਲੈਟ ਨਿਗਰਾਨੀ ਅੰਦਰ ਰੱਖੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਨਜ਼ਰਸਾਨੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੈ। ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਬੌਕਸਿਜ਼ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਬੌਕਸ ਵਿਚ ਟਿੱਕ ਕਰਕੇ, ਆਪਣਾ ਨਾਮ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਾ ਭਰ ਕੇ, ਇਸ ਫ਼ੋਰਮ ਨੂੰ ਅਨੁਵਾਦਾਂ ਦੇ ਆਖ਼ੀਰ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਵਾਪਸ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਰੀਏ, ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਕਹਿ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ।
- Swahili** Makaratasi haya yana maelezo kuhusu uchunguzi upya wa watoto wanaoangaliwa. Unaweza kuomba makaratasi yaliyotafsiriwa ukiweka alama ya pata katika kisanduku kimojawapo, andika jina lako na anuani yako halafu rejesha katika anuani iliyoandikwa hapo chini.
- Turkish** Bu broşür, bakım altındaki çocukların durumunun yeniden değerlendirilme işlemi hakkındadır. Broşürle ilgili olarak Türkçe bilgi almak istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyip isminizi ve adresinizi yazdıktan sonra, bu formu en son sayfadaki adrese gönderin.
- Urdu** یہ لیف لیٹ نگرانی میں رکھے جانے والے بچوں کی نظر ثانی کے بارے میں ہے۔ آپ اس معلومات کو اپنی زبان میں لینے کے لئے کہہ سکتے ہیں۔ اس کے لئے خانوں میں سے ایک پر ٹیک کریں، اپنا نام اور پتہ لکھیں اور ان ترجموں کے آخر میں دیئے ہوئے پتے پر اس فارم کو واپس کر دیں۔

If you would like this information on audio tape or in large print, please contact us at the same address or phone: 020 8227 5942, fax 020 8227 5917.

Your name: .....

Your address: .....

Return to:  
**Participation and  
Children's Rights Team**  
512a Heathway  
Dagenham  
Essex RM10 7SJ



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE