



WELCOME PACK

www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare



BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



Hello,

We are members of Barnsley's Care 4 Us Council, we are a group of young people in care or care leavers who get together to discuss any issues or problems that we may have and we work together to try to change things for the better.

We meet with the professionals who look after us and talk to them about any worries, concerns or changes that we'd like to see happen with our care and we have activity evenings and get involved in celebration events too.

We have helped to design this Welcome Pack and hope that you will find it useful. We want it to support you when coming into care and hope that it will help you understand what is happening, who people are and what their job is and who you can go to for support.

We know that being in care can be a scary experience but by talking to the people here to help you and being honest about how you are feeling can make things much better and you will be ok.

There will be some rules and boundaries that you have to follow which are there to make sure you are kept safe but hopefully you'll have a say in deciding what some of them are and maybe with time you might want to join our group too.

From

Members of Barnsley's Care4Us Council



This is me...

Please include a photograph, drawing or any words that describe who you are...

Name:

Age:





All about me...

My favourite colour is...

My favourite animal is...

My favourite song is...

My best friend is...

My favourite thing to eat is...

My favourite television programme is...

I also like to...



People, places and things which are important to me...

You can use this space to tell others which people, places and things in your life are important to you...



What is Care?

We believe that all children and young people should live somewhere where they feel safe, wanted and are looked after

Why do children come into care?

There are lots of different reasons why some children and young people come into the care of the Local Authority.

Sometimes their parents are unable to look after them because of illness or family problems or it could be due to abuse or neglect.


Some children and young people come into care for a short time while things get better and then go back home. Depending on the situation some are able to live with other family members and some stay with foster carers or at a children's home long term.

How do children come into care?

Sometimes this is done by an agreement between parents and the Local Authority (Children's Services). This is called being "accommodated" and parents keep parental responsibility.

Sometimes the court makes a legal order such as a Care Order or Emergency Protection Order. A court would only make an order if it is felt necessary to ensure a child's health safety and welfare. Parental responsibility is then shared between the Local Authority and the parents.

Your social worker will talk to you about this and you and the people looking after you will be involved as much as possible.



Where will I be living?

Most children and young people live with foster carers.

Foster carers are adults who have been specially checked out to make sure that they can offer you a safe and comfortable place to live in their home. There are many types of foster carers. Some foster carers live on their own with no other children and some look after more than one child including their own. Sometimes children can live with family members such as an auntie or grandparents as their carers.

Some children and young people live in a children's home.

This is where a number of children live together in the same house with adults who look after them. Children will usually have a key worker who will help them settle in, be there to talk to if they have any worries and to help them adjust to their new living arrangements.

Your social worker will talk to you about where you will be living and hopefully they will have given you some information that explains more.

Some foster carers have already got a profile leaflet they can give to children to introduce themselves with photographs of themselves, other family members, any pets, their house, garden and where you will be sleeping. Most children's homes will also have written information they can give to children.

If you haven't received any written information about where you are living please speak to your social worker.



Where I am living...

The date I moved here...

Who I am living with...

Use this space to write or draw anything about where you are living...



Time with my family...

As part of your care plan we'll continue to review the time you have with your family.

Unfortunately if we think you could be at risk of harm we can limit or stop you seeing family and friends but this is for your safety and protection.

We know that family links are important to you and wherever possible we will support you to have quality family time.

We'll never force you to spend time with anyone you don't want to.

If you're unhappy or scared about seeing your parents or anyone else in your family you must tell your social worker.

If you don't feel like you can talk to your social worker you must tell another adult that you trust, someone like your carer or teacher.

If you don't want to talk to any of those people, you can talk to a children's advocate from the Children's Rights Service.

All Children and young people in care are different and their reasons for being in care are different - your Social Worker will talk to you about your experience and try to answer any questions that you might have.

My feelings...

Everyone feels differently about coming into care. Some children are happy, others are sad some feel scared and lonely and most don't know what to expect. We asked some of our children in care what being in care meant to them and what they would say to someone coming into care. Here are some of their thoughts:

“

Although I miss my family being in care means a lot to me because I get looked after properly and I get the stuff I need ”

“

Don't listen to your friends because it's not as bad as your friends tell you. It's like being at home with a family and depending on your circumstances you may still get to see your friends and you may still go to the same school and you might still get to see your parents and sister and brother ”

“

I feel happier here than I was at my Mum's. I enjoy it here because there are people to talk to when I'm sad ”



Any questions...

Please make a note of anything you'd like to know about or about how you are feeling...



My Social Worker...

My Social Worker's name is:

Their telephone Number is:

Their e-mail address is:


Their office address is:

A social worker works with children, their parents and other family members to make sure that children and young people are happy and are looked after properly. Sometimes this means providing help so that children and young people can stay at home but also providing help when children are not being looked after properly, are not safe or when parents cannot manage.

A social worker's job is to help make plans so that you are happy, safe and looked after and that decisions made about your life are right for you whilst you are growing up. These are called Care Plans.

Your social worker will see you regularly and visit you more often when you first move into care. Everyone is different but if everything is alright, your social worker usually needs to see you at least every six weeks. You can contact your social worker if you want to see them sooner or if you have something you want to talk to them about.

Your social worker will explain about the Delegated Authority agreement for you. This is an agreement between the Local Authority, your parents and carers and explains who can give permission for you to do certain things.



Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)...

My IRO's name is:

Their telephone number is:

Their e-mail address is:

Their office address is:

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) are the people who chair review meetings for you if you are in care.

They have an important job as they help to decide what happens in your future and make sure that any decisions made are in your best interest by making sure your care plan meets your needs and making sure you have your rights met.

They do this by;

- Chairing your review and asking questions and setting actions about what's best for you. This may mean changes to your care plan.
- Letting you have your say in your review
- Making sure that people do what they agreed to do within the timescale they agreed.

It is important that you make sure that your IRO knows how you feel and what you would like to happen.

Following each review your IRO will write to you to let you know what is discussed and the decisions that have been made.

IRO's can visit and talk to young people between review meetings and you can get in touch with them to tell them too.



Children's Rights Service

When you come into care, you have a right to be consulted about what happens to you. This doesn't mean that you'll always get what you want, but we'll take what you have to say seriously.

The Children's Rights Service, which is run by the Targeted Youth Support Service, provides an advocate for all children and young people in care. They are independent to social care and your social workers, foster carers, IRO's etc.

Advocates are people who'll listen to you and help you get your point across if you feel people aren't listening to you, if you're unhappy with any decisions being made about you or your care, or you just want something to change.

They'll also support you if you feel you need to make a formal complaint.

If you have to attend a children's hearing or go to court, you also have a right to be represented independently by a Children's Right's Advocate or any other children's advocate.

The Children's Right's Coordinator is: Karen Lovatt

Her telephone number is: 01226 753406

Her mobile number is: 07766698023

Her email address is: karenlovatt@barnsley.gov.uk

Make a compliment, complaint or suggestion to BMBC

You can also make a complaint or a compliment by:

- Telephoning 01226 773555 between Monday and Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Writing to us at Customer Services Feedback and Improvement Team, PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG



My School...

The School I attend is called:

Telephone number:

The name of my Designated
Teacher for Children in Care is:

Most children and young people who come into care continue to attend their usual school unless there are reasons why this is not possible and your social worker will discuss this with you. Every school has a designated teacher for children in care. Their job is to make sure that all the pupils in care get the right support at school and are settled at school. The designated teacher will try to help out with any difficulties you may be experiencing at school and will feed this into your reviews.

Every local authority must have a virtual head teacher for children in care. Their job is to make sure that looked after children do the best they can in their education and get the best results they can. It is the virtual head teacher's job to make sure that schools are doing all they can to make sure that children in care make good progress in each of their subjects. They also make sure extra help is given to children in care when they need it.

Barnsley's Virtual Head Teacher is: Liz Gibson

Her contact number is: 01226 774644

My Education Advocate for Children in Care is: Karen Harkness

Her telephone number is: 01226 772469





My TIAG Adviser...

My TIAG Advisers name is:

Their telephone number is:

Their email address is:

Their address is: 2nd Floor Wellington House, Market Street, Barnsley S70 1WA

 **@BarnsleyTIAG**

The TIAG (Targeted, Information, Advice and Guidance) Service provides independent and impartial careers guidance to young people in Barnsley.

They can help you explore all your career options so that you make well-informed choices that enable you to achieve your aspirations, fulfil your potential and move into adulthood with confidence.

A TIAG Adviser will help support you into learning and training and apprenticeships and jobs as well.

Every young person in Barnsley is allocated a TIAG Adviser.





My Health...

Your Health and Wellbeing Matters to us...

Who are the children in care health team?

A health team who work with children who enter care to promote their health and wellbeing. A nurse advisor a Doctor and team of administrators.

What do we do?

Offer you a health assessment.
Help you with any health issues you may have about your health and wellbeing.

What is a health assessment?

A meeting where the doctor will talk to you about your general health. This is an Initial Health Assessment. Your Annual Review Health Assessments take place every year, usually with the nurse, in a place where you are comfortable. For children under 5 years this happens every 6 months.

What happens at the health assessment?

At your first meeting the doctor may discuss how you are feeling? Sad, worried, stressed, angry? How to keep safe, healthy eating and relationships. The doctor will also listen to your heart and take your blood pressure. Measure and weigh you to see how much you have grown.

Who will be at the health assessment?

Your carer and social worker will be invited, but if you feel that you want to be seen alone or bring a friend, just tell the doctor/nurse.

What happens after the assessment?

The doctor/nurse will write a health care report and provide information of what needs to be done for you to keep healthy. Your report will be kept in your records and shared with other health professionals who are caring for you. A copy will be sent to your social worker who will share this with you and your carer to support you.

What about confidentiality and consent?

If you are old enough, you will be asked for your permission to take part in the health assessment. No information will be shared without asking you first. Information can only be shared without your permission if we think that you or someone else may be at risk of harm.

If you need extra help or more information about health services you can contact the Children in Care Health Team

Their telephone number is: 01226 774411 (this is the number for our single point of access)

To talk to a ChildLine Councillor - ChildLine: 0800 1111

Mental health and emotional wellbeing - Young Minds: 0808 8025544

If your concerned about drug use - Frank: 0300 1236600



Independent Visitor Service...

The Independent visitors programme is a service that pairs children in care with an adult volunteer mentor and is aimed at supporting young people in care who don't get to see their families regularly.

The volunteers, guide, advise, listen and befriend young people in care by sharing their experiences as well as attending activities, days out and spending quality time together.

The volunteers are specifically trained and don't work for social care or the Local Authority – they are there for the young people they support.

If you are interested in having an Independent visitor then please speak to your social worker or care provider in the first instance or contact the Targeted Youth Support Service on 01226 753406.

Other useful information...

All this information and more can also be found on our dedicated website for children in care and care leavers

www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare

Emergency Duty Team (Social Care)

Email: emergencydutyteam@barnsley.gov.uk

Telephone: 01226 78779



The Care4Us Council is made up of young people aged 8 to 25 who are either looked after or have left the care system and are part of the leaving care service.

The purpose of the Care4Us Council is to work with young people's corporate parents and other services to make a difference - by speaking to children who are in care and other care-experienced young people.

Care4Us Council members also have the opportunity to take part in activities such as residential gatherings, regional work and fun events like bowling and eating out.

If you'd like to be part of the Care4Us Council please get in touch with the team...



01226 753406

Youth Voice/Participation Coordinator Targeted Youth Support
Wombwell Centre, Barnsley Road, Wombwell, S73 8HT



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