

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

Children and young people's views on what is important

Strategic Vision & Priorities 2019-22



Voices of children - loud, proud and entitled
Secure love and care - children feel loved and securely cared for
Relationships - a focus on people, networks, wellbeing and resilience
Public Affairs - clear vision, leadership and direction

Acknowledgements

We would like to give special acknowledgement to all the children, young people and organisations who contributed their views and ideas.

Huge thanks too, to the children and young people not named here, who contributed via their Children in Care Council including: North East; North West; East Midlands; Greater London; South East; South West.

We would also like to thank the staff involved in these for their support.

We are very grateful for the written contributions, photos and drawings provided by the North Yorkshire Young People's Council (NYYPC), Kent Children in Care Council and Selby Youth Council.

Special mentions to:
Shannon Downing –
Chair, Lydia Bailey - Vice
Chair of the North
Yorkshire Young People's
Council (NYYPC) and
members of the Selby
Youth Council, for
allowing us to include
drawings and photos from
their consultation day.



Views from children and young people with care experience

Children and young people shared the following views about how NIROMP can work with children and young people to promote their voices, both locally, regionally and nationally:



- Use of social media questionnaires, YouTube and radio channels and a facebook page.
- Involvement through NIROMP's regional meetings or groups.
- A regular trip to the House of Commons to talk and debate about key issues for children and young people in care, also to organise more Conferences for Children in Care Councils.
- Regular attendance at Children in Care Council and Corporate Parent Board meetings – to meet the young people, see their faces and have conversations with them.
- Have regular meetings with children and young people e.g. a regional meeting or focus/steering group meetings for children and young people to feed in to local, regional, national strategic meetings.
- Display Children in Care Council posters in a range of community buildings such as schools and promote via social media.

Children and young people shared the following views about how IRO Services could be improved:

- Be our champion - push for us and our wishes.
- Be aspirational for us and believe in us; it's easier to speak out when we trust our IRO and know they are on our side.

- Extend the IRO Services so Young People can have an IRO until they are 25 if they want one.



- Give all IROs the same training.
- Some of us want our IROs to talk to us and visit us more.
- Give more support to our families and make sure our foster carer(s) are supporting our important relationships with family (including brothers and sisters) and our friends.
- Make sure we are well cared for at school and college.
- Celebrate and give the best IROs awards.
- New IROs should meet with us as soon as they are assigned and as often as possible.

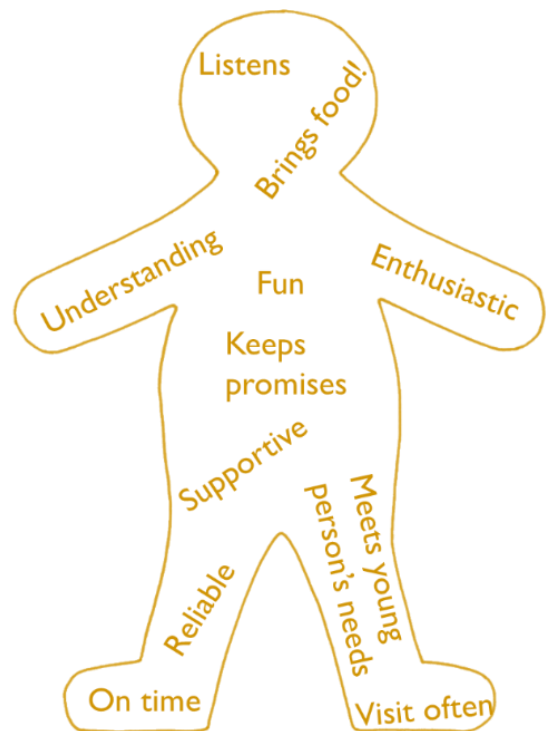


- Give us an IRO business card with contact details and information so we can get in touch easily if we need to.
- Give us strategies and resources to help us speak out more confidently at meetings if we need them e.g. topic cards or sentence starters.
- Make sure foster carers are involved in our lives for the right reasons - because they care about us.
- Give us information leaflets explaining our rights and help us understand our rights and what we can have.
- Keep us up-to-date.
- Give us more support around being bullied.
- Give us more careers advice.
- We want fewer changes of social workers.
- Make sure we know about advocacy.

- Make sure personal information is not shared with everyone unnecessarily.

Children and young people had the following positive things to say about IROs:

- They listen.
- They help get your voice heard.
- You can share problems and they help solve them.
- They make sure everyone else does what they're supposed to and you get what you need
- They are an outside person who you can turn to if you are not happy.
- An IRO is like an advocate but different, they are there to make sure that your voice is heard"
- I am asked every time about where, when and who I want there and I make decisions about my meeting!"



- If there were risks in my plan my IRO would take it further.

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Children and young people shared the following expectations about their review meeting:

- All IRO's should listen to our views and explain all decisions made.
- Let us have our say about the rules, about what is discussed (or not), by who, when and where and who is involved in meetings with and about us.
- Listen to what we have to say about our birth family. We don't always want our birth family involved.

- Meet and talk to us before and after our review meeting – to help us prepare and to get our views. Ask us what we want to talk about, which adults we would like to attend and for our ideas about when and where our meeting should take place.

- Give us a role in chairing our Review Meetings if we want and help us prepare for it.

- Don't hold reviews in social care buildings. Keep them informal.

- Don't wear lanyards if you're out in public with us and don't bring a laptop to type notes.



- Be contactable always and not only when reviews or meetings are coming up.

- Let us decide when we want to talk and make sure there is enough time to speak about things.

- Don't make us feel pressured to talk in meetings if we do not want to. If good work is done before and after then the IRO can talk on our behalf and ensure our voice is heard without us having to say a word.



- Don't email us - text message, social media or phone is usually better.

- Think about what you're saying to and how it might come across – don't refer to us as 'LAC!'

- Ensure there are provisions in place for people whose first language isn't English (include provisions for deaf and blind)

- Tell us what's happened if we make a complaint.

National IRO Managers Partnership



Securing better life chances and choices for all children and young people with care experience.

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