

# Children & Young People's Views



**Children & young people who have experienced a variety of care settings to meet their individual and unique needs/circumstances have been consulted and their views obtained. It is these views that we will now share with you.**

Appendix 5

# We would like to say thank to the following young people for sharing their views.



- Leigh (19)
- Becky (21)
- Simon (20)
- Claire (17)
- Mark (16)
- Jordan (16)
- George (13)
- Paul (16)
- Jack (15)
- Caitlin (13)
- Shelby (14)

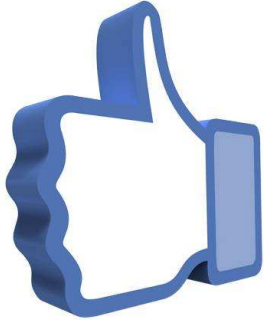
- Billie Jo (12)
- Sarah (11)
- James(9)
- Marcus (14)
- Scott (20 )
- Jamie (8)
- Jordan(15 )
- Nicola (16)
- Michael(17)
- Arron (18)

# What **do** you like about being looked after in care?



- Good relationships with carer.
- Double treats at Christmas, Birthdays Easter etc.
- I have been able to go to places I would never have went with my family.
- Some carers accept you for who you are.
- A bit more freedom.
- I now have opportunities I would never have had with my family.
- Learn good family values and good family morals.
- Better being out of my home town made it easier much happier and more accepted.
- Easier not having as many people living in the home of last carer.
- Comfort of a family home.
- Stability.
- Pocket money.
- Clothing allowance
- Staff/carers
- Friendly people.
- Location.
- Activities.
- Lifestyle.
- Family values.
- Contact with family – (Residential Care)
- Better in general, better prospects as probably wouldn't have gone to college and if I did wouldn't have stuck in.

# What **do** you like about being looked after in care?



- New clothes when I need them.
- I get treated with more respect
- They treat me like an adult.
- I get to do more activities and have more opportunities and good experiences.
- Not as many arguments as there were when I lived at home.
- Someone who can tell me what not to do and try to keep me right and someone to take me to the doctors.
- You get to go on holiday
- You get to go to the pictures
- My carers are kind
- You get pocket money
- They look after us nicely
- I get to do things that I didn't get to do with my mam and dad.
- It is nice to be in foster care
- Someone to talk to a friendship and bonding with Foster Carer and other young people in the household and extended family.

# What **do** you like about being looked after in care?

- Personal belongings.
- Xbox/PSP
- The staff at Exmoor
- Where I live
- Joyful environment
- Stability and having a roof over your head.
- Knowing there is someone there.
- Nice Social Worker
- Someone there to help you.



# What **don't** you like about being looked after in care?



- Get told off for negative behaviour.
- Lack of communication (residential care)
- Family contact – should be in a family setting instead of a resource centre.
- Not having someone to talk to.
- Friends parents having to be police checked when I would like to sleep out it is so embarrassing for me.
- Some foster carers are in it for the money
- When foster carers go on holiday we should always be included.
- Going to respite with carers you don't know.
- Building up a relationship with your Social Worker then getting a new one.
- Sibling separation
- Foster carers saying they understand when they havent been through what we have been through.
- Nothing about being in care – strangers.
- Did not know the environment.

# What **don't** you like about being looked after in care?



- If I kick off I get locked up – with carers or residential staff.
- I do not get given enough information from my Social Worker
- Families are separated
- Living out of town/shipped out of town.
- Strict boundaries.
- Don't like some other children in placement
- Get told off all the time.
- Not being able to play on my DS when I want.
- Should be able to go home any time you like.
- Nothing x 2



# What **don't** you like about being looked after in care?



- Lack of choices.
- People that I didn't know.
- Have to go out with random people
- I want to go home.
- Being stereotyped
- Looks bad on families
- Don't like being part of social services.
- Worried that when you reach 18, where you're going to live.
- Should involve families more.
- Too many other people involved.
- LAC Reviews
- Hard to be placed between 16 -18.
- Having to attend meetings (all meetings, puts you on a downer when they talk about you)



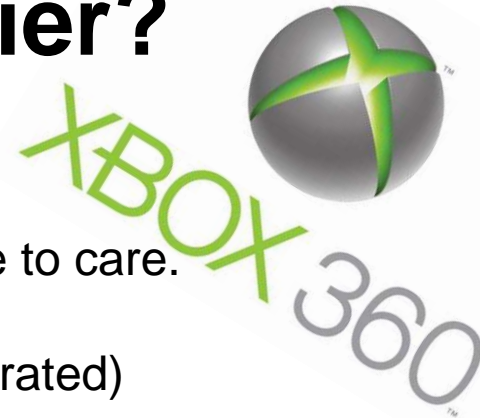
# Is there anything which would have made coming into care easier for you? What would have made your time in care easier?

- An explanation to why I am in care.
- Getting informed that you are going into care before it happens.
- When we got taken into care, it felt like we were being kidnapped from school.
- Not getting an explanation to why I went into care wasn't very nice. I think I should have been told why.
- Building a relationship with a foster carer before I lived with them.
- Living with younger foster carers would have helped.
- Making sure that I was going to be with the right foster carer and family.
- Social Worker to have more background knowledge of the foster carer and whether or not they have knowledge of my family.



# Is there anything which would have made coming into care easier for you? What would have made your time in care easier?

- An Xbox
- Getting to know the carers first
- Could have been prepared for transition from home to care.
- Picked up from school with no warning.
- Should have been kept as a family (4 siblings separated)
- We are not given choices of foster carers.
- Have to be totally honest (the Social Workers)
- Meeting the carers.
- Would have been easier if I had been placed correctly the first time.
- Having more choice and say in where to go and being kept informed otherwise it can be scary.
- Social Worker to listen to my worries/concern's about who I am to be placed with.



# Is there anything which would have made coming into care easier for you? What would have made your time in care easier?

- Knowing where you were going and why.
- To be given clear rules and boundaries.
- Different types of care and families to match preferences.
- Choice
- Choose where we go.
- Less carer's – get it right from the beginning.
- Would have liked a Social Worker that listened and sided with the family.
- To have a foster carer that is understanding and that can talk too and to be treated as a member of the family.



# If you were able to change the care system what things would you change?



- To keep contact with siblings whether in foster care or adopted.
- Promote family contact more.
- More contact with Social Workers
- More support workers
- More leaving care workers
- To have contact with Social Workers in a more relaxed environment.
- You should be told what a care order is and why you have one.
- More contact with your family and unsupervised.
- Should be able to pick and choose the foster carer you want to stay with, to be able to 'test out' i.e. stay with a week or so to see how you are going to get on with the carer and their family.

# If you were able to change the care system what things would you change?

- To have more family contact.
- Foster carers should take all family members.
- To have a residential home in Hartlepool
- More foster carers homes in Hartlepool
- To have a new bus (Exmoor).
- Its fine the way it is.
- More consistency across the board in regards to finances and make sure that they receive the money.



# If you were able to change the care system what things would you change?

- More places in Hartlepool for young people.
- Not to be judged on past behaviour.
- More funding for Child & Adult Services.
- Being able to stay in one place.
- Not having to move
- Less people fussing around you.
- More choices of foster carers.
- Move leaving care workers and Social Workers – to allow workers to better support young people –would have less young people to support so able to give better service.
- A limit on the number of children/people in a house.
- Don't mix families.



# Additional Comments

- Why don't I see my family when I want to?
- Why don't I see my Social Worker very often?
- Why do staff have to supervise my contact with my family?
- Leigh wishes she had stayed in care a lot longer because things are not as easy as she thought.
- It is difficult learning how to budget.
- Matching Social Workers to your personality.
- Important to attend panel and be fully involved in the process as much as possible.
- Happy in placement and services that are in place.

