

What Makes The Difference? TOOLS and RESOURCES

NAME OF TOOL/RESOURCE: Life in Care Interview

NAME AND REGION OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION THAT DEVELOPED THIS TOOL/RESOURCE:

NLCAS: Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East Region.

Purpose and Brief Description of Tool/Resource:

This document is an exit interview for young people leaving care. It covers a range of issues relevant to their experience in care. It is designed to be worked through with a worker of the young person's choice.

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Contact details for further information about this tool/resource

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Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource

Positive impact of this tool/resource:

1. Gives young people the opportunity to reflect and feedback on their experience in care.

LIFE in CARE INTERVIEW (PROFORMA 1)

Introduction

This is not a questionnaire for young people to complete on their own. It is structured in an interview format to help the child or young person participate fully in the process, give honest and straightforward answers and highlight any unresolved issues. However, should a young person wish to fill in the form independently they can make this choice.

The planned outcome of the interview will be that the young person will feel valued and respected. It is important that the interviewer is sensitive to the young persons needs and feelings as some questions could raise emotional issues for them. Any unresolved issues, need to be discussed and appropriate action taken.

All children and young people leaving care should be offered an interview and a choice of who conducts the interview. Some authorities use peer mentors to conduct the interviews independently.

This interview takes place within 6 months of a young people ceasing to be 'looked after' and moving into more independent accommodation. Their status at this time will be either

- Eligible (those who remain on care orders but have left care)
- Relevant (those who were accommodated under sec 20)
- Former relevant (those who have reached 18 and were eligible or relevant)

How this information is to be used

This is a piece of action research and will be used to improve services for looked after children and people leaving care in the future.

It is important that the information generated from this research is collated at a central point and is used to outline current services, plan new initiatives and to highlight gaps in provision that will need action. It is also important that young people be informed formally, what has happened as a result of the information they have given, within a set timescale.

INTERVIEW

This interview is your chance to say what you think of the service you have received whilst you have been in care.

What you tell us will be used to make services better for other children and young people in care and leaving care. There are no right or wrong answers. We hope that you will be as honest as possible.

Name (optional) _____ Date _____

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Disability: Yes/No Details: _____

Name of Worker _____ Team _____

Coming into Care

Do you know the reasons why you came into care?	Yes / No / Unsure
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If yes, who explained this to you?

At that time, did you understand what the worker told you?	Yes / No
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If no, what would have helped you to understand?
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Being in Care/Accommodation

What type of placements have you had while you've been 'looked after'?
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What do you remember most about each of them?

Which placement was the most successful and why? Please comment.

Did you receive help or support with school/college work?

Yes / No

Can you give us more details about how this was done?

Have you had any health problems, which you would like to talk about, whilst in care?

Were these problems sorted out? In what way?

What leisure activities have you been involved in? In future is there anything you would like to be involved in?

Have social services helped you maintain regular contact with members of your family and close friends? Were travel costs paid?

Who or what helped you the most while you were in care? Please comment.

Overall how would you rate the service you have received (circle one)

Excellent Good Not good Bad

Placements

Excellent Good Not Good Bad

Carers

Excellent Good Not Good Bad

Schools/Learning

Excellent Good Not Good Bad

Please tell us more about the above questions if you need to give us more details.....

<p>Whilst you were in care did you feel listened to? Please give an example of this</p>	Yes/No
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Preparation

In the following areas how prepared did you feel:

Budgeting (managing money and paying bills)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Emotionally (the way you feel and handle things)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Practical Skills (doing things like cooking, cleaning)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Social Skills (how you talk to and relate to others)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Personal Care (keeping yourself clean)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Health Care (going to the doctors/dentist/clinic, what food to eat, sexual health)

Well prepared Reasonably A little Not prepared

Overall how would you rate your preparation for leaving care

Excellent Good Not Good Bad

In what ways did you feel ready to live independently?

What do we need to change about preparation for independence?

Thinking about your experiences in care, what would you like to change for other young people?

Is there anything else you want or think we should know?

Signed (optional) _____ Date _____

Thank you for your time. We value your opinions and look forward to continuing to work with you.

K.Turner 21.7.05 amended 4.8.05, 22.8.05, 19.7.06 with young people

EXIT INTERVIEW EVALUATION FORM 1 (Please complete for monitoring purposes and forward to the LAC/Leaving Care manager)

Authority _____ Date _____

Who conducted the interview?

peer mentor PA IRO other (specify)

Did the young person choose where the interview took place? Yes/No

YOUNG PERSON (to complete independently)

Did you feel comfortable during the interview? Yes/No

Did it give you a chance to say what you think? Yes/No

Did you think the questions were the right ones? Yes/No

How would you change the questions?

What would you change about the interview? (who, where, what would make it better?)

THE INTERVIEWER

Did the young person appear comfortable? Yes/No

Did any of the questions require further clarification? Yes/No

Which ones?

Is there anything else you feel needs to be changed?