



What to expect: Looked After Child Reviews/ LAC Reviews

It is a statutory requirement that every child or young person who is looked after has a Care Plan. This plan might also be called a **Looked After Child Plan** or a **LAC Plan**.

A **child's** Care Plan will record their **individual care needs and how these needs will be met**.

To help ensure that Looked After Child Plans remain up-to-date **all Care Plans must be reviewed regularly. This is done as part of the Looked After Child Review.**

- **A child's first LAC Review must be held within 28 days** of a child becoming Looked After
- **The next review must be within 3 months** of the first review
- After this reviews will be held **at least every 6 months**

Reviews can be held more frequently if there is a lot happening in the young person's life, or if there are significant changes in the overall plan.

Before the first Review an outline Care Plan will be drawn up by the Social Worker and **will be shared with those with Parental Responsibility 5 day before the LAC Review.**

Following the review **the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) will amend and update the plan within 5 working days** and the meeting notes will be available within 20 working days

Looked After Child Reviews are the child or Young Person's meeting. They will be held in the place that is best for the child or young person. This is likely to be at the place where the young person lives, but can be somewhere else.

If a child wishes to chair their own **Looked After Child Review, they will be supported to do this by their (IRO).**

Looked After **Children and Young People also have the right to be supported by an advocate during their Review.**

It is very important that, all looked after children are able to express their thoughts and feelings about the decisions that are being made about their lives.

The child or young person will be asked who they would like to attend the Review. When it is possible and appropriate parents will be invited to attend reviews so that they can give information to help update the plan for their child.

The views of parents and carers are very important to the Review so parents are encouraged to fill in the consultation documents.

Where it is not felt to be in the best interests of the child for the parents to attend the Review, the IRO will offer to meet with the parent separately so that they are given the opportunity to share their views as well.

