



## Reason for being in care explained

Southampton  
**'Finding the right  
words' workshops  
to help  
professionals  
explain to children  
why they are in care**  
Feb 2019

Using a new training workshop called 'Finding the Right Words', Southampton set out to help professionals help children understand the reasons why they are in care.

## Why?

The Southampton Bright Spots survey results showed that some children did not feel that an adult had explained to them why they were looked after.

## What difference is it making?

The feedback from the events has been positive though people wanted it to be longer (currently 3 hours long). The training has become a core part of the training offer. There are now plans to run the training for new starters and as a refresher for those who want it.

## What did they do?

Southampton launched an all service training package called 'Finding the right words'. The session's aim was to help provide a reflective workshop space for workers whilst also giving workers their own toolkits for explaining why children are in care.

In March, the workshop was reported to have more than 60 staff in training. The training has offered a 'reflective space to try out and work together on ways to communicate difficult experiences'.

As part of the work a video has been made in partnership with a Southampton care leaver who shares the impact of not having a solid explanation of when he came into care and how he created his own narrative to manage this.

*"I would like to know what my social care is. I don't really know what is going on and I want to know everything."  
(8-11 year old in care)*

## What would make care better?

*"I don't want to be in care. I want to see my mum more!"  
(11-18 year old in care)*

*"I think children should be given photos of their birth family."  
(8-11 year old in care)*