



Involvement in decision making

Hampshire
**Child-centred
care plans**
Jan 2021

The LA simplified the care plan templates used at looked after reviews. The new plan has to be completed *with* the child rather than a document written by the social worker about the child. It also includes a photo the child.

Why?

Changes to the care plan were driven by Bright Spots findings that some children did not understand why they were in care and did not know their social worker

What did they do?

We no longer do the child and family assessment plus your care plan. Instead we have 'My Life, My Way' which encompasses it all It's a very simple document... the child has to support the social worker in writing that... We encourage social workers to put a picture of the child in it. (Participation and Development manager)

What difference is it making?

The LA reported that feedback from children had been positive.

The simple introduction of the child's photo on the care plan was also identified as making a difference

Just to have that photo... it becomes a person rather than a name on a sheet somewhere. You can get a bit more of a feel for who they are.

(Social worker, Children in Care team)

"You get more of a sense of the child when you read the paperwork."

Independent Reviewing Officer