



**Support us to grow**  
Good care is where you feel safe, supported and have fun.

You talked about specific support you wanted to improve, including:

- family time
- mental health support
- education
- preparation for independence

"A home is where you feel safe, it's homely, comfortable, and decorated nice, you feel part of the family, you're listened to and you have your own space."

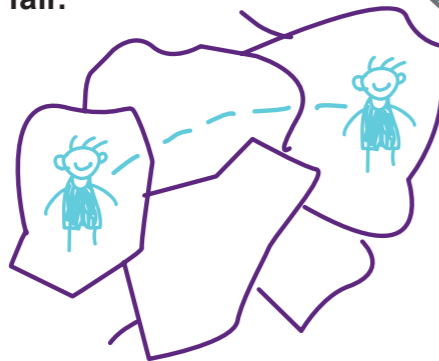
"Counselling provided when put into care."

Care often felt like a lottery where, if you were lucky and in care in the right area, you would get support.

**The same support wherever we are**  
Provide a clearer and fairer system without a postcode lottery of care.

You pointed out differences in what was offered to young people in the same local authority, which did not feel fair.

"Young people get different things, different support for the same issues."



"My brother was 4 years younger than me and he has had a lot more support offered."

"A system designed for you would make sure you have the right information."

**A NATIONAL VOICE**

**What children and young people wanted to say to the Care Review**

"It is like a second family who loves you but that is only if you get a good foster carer."

When professionals change around you, it is harder to develop trusting relationships, but people who listen and care are key.

**The best professionals for us**  
Good relationships with professionals is key to making your care experience good.

You felt professionals should have the right training, including on:

- Understanding what makes you, you (LGBTQ+, belief, culture)
- mental health
- listening to young people

"I know my social worker cares because they text me out of hours."

"Training... about what it's like being in care and why we should be listened to."

You felt the care system is designed to meet the needs of adults, local authorities, government (and sometimes computer systems or processes).

**Services designed for us**  
Develop services that work for you, that you can understand, rather than ones designed for and by adults.

Areas of the care system that didn't work for you:

- Not enough focus on building good relationships
- Not being able to do the same things as your friends
- Not being listened to
- Slow decisions and red tape
- Lack of information about decisions or your rights
- Poor language used
- Difficulties with complaints
- Many cliff edges in support

"If we want to stay with a friend then do the checks and allow us to have some fun and be normal."

"A lot of cliff edges seem to be around money"



# Collating your views for the Children's Care Review

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care commissioned A National Voice Ambassadors (a group of 24 care experienced young people aged 16-25 from across England) to support them with the review to make sure the voices of more children and young people in care and leaving care are heard.

In early summer 2021, the review team published a report called 'The Case for Change' which highlighted broad areas they have identified as most needing changing in children's social care. Our A National Voice Ambassadors developed workshop packs for children and young people to have their say on these areas.

Workshop packs were sent out to Children in Care Councils and other groups who had expressed an interest. Local Authorities from across the country ran sessions and held conversations with their children and young people. There was also a separate survey for young people who did not want to take part in group sessions or who were not part of their Children in Care Council but still wanted to have a say.

A group of A National Voice Ambassadors met in August 2020 for a two day residential. They read all the responses received and explore what was mentioned most frequently. They prepared short presentations which were shared with the Independent Review team.

**THANK YOU!**

We want to say a huge thank you to all the children and young people that have shared their thoughts, feelings and hopes for the future, as well as the great staff who have supported them to participate and have their voices heard.

This is the summary of the report that pulls together what you told us and the ANV ambassadors presentations to the independent review team.

To read the full report go to

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/get-involved/get-your-voice-heard-in-the-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care>



# Who responded?



## Age

0-8	8-10	10-12	12-15	16-18	18-20	21+
5	9	19	41	96	42	24

## Responses from

**309**  
children and young people

## Gender\* (as they identify)

Male: 92  
Female: 135  
Non-binary: 3  
Prefer not to say: 4  
Other: 0

## Special Educational Needs (SEND)\*

Yes: 38  
No: 271

## Ethnicity\*

Asian: 13  
Black: 3  
Mixed: 7  
White: 187  
Other: 4

Online sessions: 14  
In person sessions: 10

## Responses from

**31**

Local authorities

- Bath & North Somerset
- Bedfordshire Borough
- Bolton
- Bradford
- Brighton & Hove
- Bristol
- Central Bedfordshire
- Coventry
- Cumbria
- Derby
- Devon
- Dudley
- Haringey
- Holton
- Hull
- Kent
- Medway
- Manchester
- North Yorkshire
- Norfolk
- Plymouth
- Reading
- Rutland
- Rotherham
- Sandwell
- Sheffield
- Suffolk
- Somerset
- South Tyneside
- Telford
- Worcestershire

## About ANV

A National Voice (ANV) is the 'National Children in Care Council' for children in care and care leavers aged 11-26, who are passionate about how the care system works and how it affects those within it.

We work to improve the care system through the voices of care experienced young people.

To find out more and get involved in future work by ANV email [anv@coramvoice.org.uk](mailto:anv@coramvoice.org.uk) or go to [www.coramvoice.org.uk/anv](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/anv)

## About the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care is a review of the whole of the children's social care system, chaired by Josh MacAlister. The review aims to identify the problems within children's social care and think about ways to make things better for the future. Since the start of the review the team has listened to thousands of people, included those with lived experience and professionals, about what needs to change.

The ideas and suggestions from care experienced people, including this report from Coram Voice's ANV, are being used by the review team to better understand the issues within the care system and to help the team create better recommendations for a future system.

The Care Review team's website is <http://www.childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/> and their email address is [Review.CHILDRENSSOCIALCARE@education.gov.uk](mailto:Review.CHILDRENSSOCIALCARE@education.gov.uk) which can be used to ask questions or share ideas.



\*Not all children and young people shared information about gender, ethnicity, age or SEND.