Language that cares

Show you care, by using 'language that cares' in children's files

Here's why we want you to use language that cares

When a young person is 13 and able to access their file, they will see everything that you have written about them.

This could be many years after you wrote it, and there is no opportunity for them to go back and speak to you about it. All too often, the language used in children's files is cold, negative and impersonal.

Do you ever think how a young person will feel when they read what you have written?

By taking a moment to think about the words you are using, you can show you care and make what can be a difficult experience, more positive.

Show you care, by using language that cares.

Don't use	Use
Placement ▶	Where I live
Case ▶	Child or children
Restrained ▶	Physically held to stay safe
Drop out ▶	No longer at school because
Respite ▶	Time away / break
In care ▶	Being cared for
Siblings ▶	Brothers and sisters
Contact ▶	Time with family / friends

#language that cares

Show you care, use language that cares

THINK before you write

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Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL
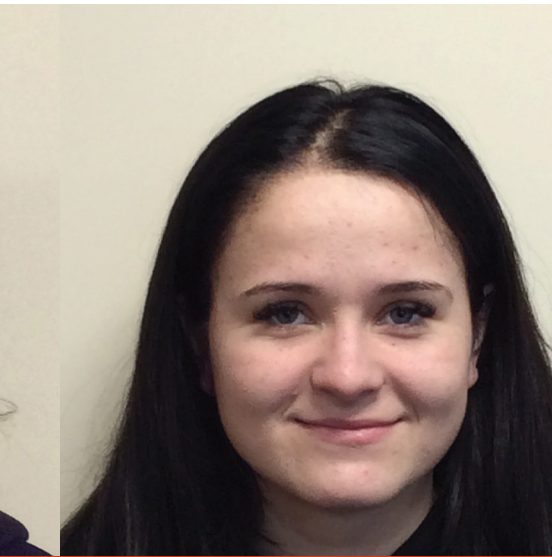
I'm not a 'persistent absconder'

I'm caring for my family at home

I haven't got 'challenging behaviour'

I'm expressing my emotions

I'm not 'not engaging'

You haven't built a relationship with me yet

I'm not 'difficult to place'

I'm fun, happy and resilient