



The independent review of children's social care

A summary of the final report

Background to the review

The aim of the review was to put forth recommendations for a system that:

provides intensive help to families in crisis

acts decisively in response to abuse

unlocks the potential of wider family networks to raise children

puts lifelong loving relationships at the heart of the care system

lays the foundations for a good life for those who have been in care.

The final report and supporting evidence were published in May 2022. Findings were divided into nine key sections



Reset children's social care

The review suggests that the issues facing the social care system can only be addressed through a “radical reset”.

The problem: *a failure to recognise relationships and the strength of families*

The children's social care system is facing increased pressure with less resources and a shrinking workforce.

The current way of working by managing risks, responding to episodic need, and having high thresholds to access help, may be restricting the purpose of social care to 'rescuing' children, and keeping services from meeting the needs of families.

Principles and approach of the review: *for reforms to be successful, there needs to be:*

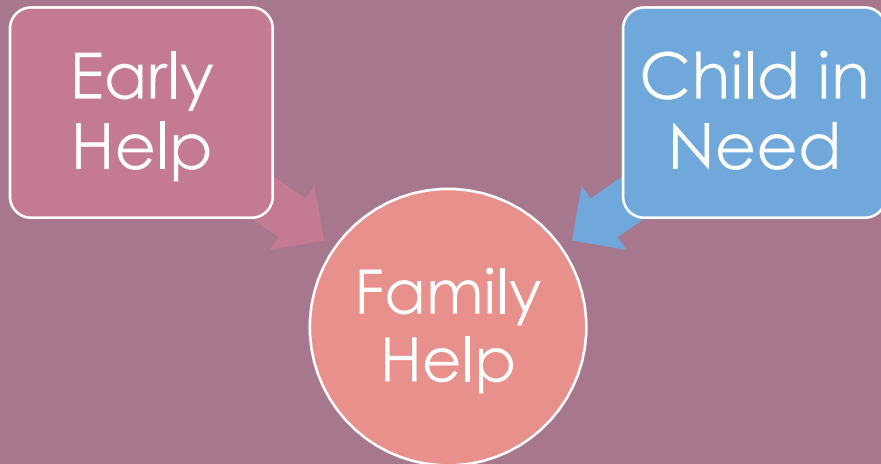
clear objectives from national government on children's social care

a system that works to meet children's and families' needs rather than making them fit the system

greater transparency, new mechanisms for learning and better inspection and intervention

a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce and better multiagency working

A Revolution in Family Help



Brings together Early Help and CIN
(S17)

Multidisciplinary Family Help Teams
based in community settings

Much higher levels of **meaningful
support**

Clear **national definition of eligibility
and the outcomes** for Family Help

A just and decisive child protection system

Child Protection **System**

more generous **multidisciplinary help offer**

strengthened multi-agency arrangements

clearer expectations on multiagency capabilities for child protection

response to harm outside of the home through a “**Child Community Safety Plan**”

Using technology to achieve **frictionless sharing of information**

improved workforce knowledge and skills



Unlocking the potential of family networks

Kinship carers need greater recognition and support in the children's social care system. Changes needed include:

Making better use of family networks

- introducing a new legal right to family decision making
- introducing a Family Network Plan to support care from wider family networks.

Backing kinship carers

- introducing a new legal definition of kinship care
- giving kinship carers the financial and practical support they need to care for children without having to register as foster carers.

Modernising adoption

- making contact arrangements between birth parents, adopted children and adoptive parents the default
- facilitating technology-enabled methods of contact.



Transforming care

Setting out new care standards

- Replacing all current, and applicable to all homes for children

Creating Regional Care Cooperatives (RCCs)

- responsible for planning, running, and commissioning care provision in the region

Increasing focus on foster care

- National recruitment campaign and access to training and support (NCSCF)
- Delegated authority by default

Creating a new legal right to advocacy

- Replace a number of existing roles with truly independent advocacy for children that is opt-out, rather than opt-in



The care experience

Five Ambitious Missions

- Loving Relationships
- Quality Education
- A Decent Home
- Fulfilling Work
- Good Health As The Foundations For A Good Life

A wider range of organisations to act as **corporate parents** for looked after children

The UK should be the first country in the world to recognise the **care experience as a protected characteristic**

Realising the potential of the workforce

Professional development which provides a five year early career framework.

Social work leadership required to continue **working directly with children and families.**

Improving case management systems, reducing repetitive administrative tasks

Embedding **multidisciplinary teams** at the heart of local communities who **deliver, not just commission.**

A knowledge and skills statement for family support workers, a leadership programme and **professional registration for children's home managers**

Reduce the use of agency social work by developing new rules and regional staff banks.

A system
focused on
children and
families

National Children's Social Care Framework

- *Setting out objectives and outcomes, direction and purpose*
- *Meaningful indicators*

National Practice Group to build practice guides, transparency and learning.

Strategic role of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements clarified beyond doubt..

Schools should be included as a statutory safeguarding partner.

Inspection should be more child focused and have **greater transparency about how judgements are made.**

Permanent **Regional Improvement Commissioners** to oversee progress across regions.

A National Data and Technology Taskforce

3 priority actions:

- 1.Reduce social worker time spent recording;*
- 2.Frictionless sharing of information;*
- 3.Improving data collection and its use in informing decisions*

Implementation

Steps needed to achieve proposed reforms, include:

a single five-year reform programme

Oversight from the Secretary of State for Education, who will be responsible for holding others to account and reporting to parliament on progress.

£2.6 billion of new spending over four years

Government response

The government has set out initial measures in response to the review, including:

setting up a new National Implementation Board of sector experts and people with experience of the care system

implementing a new evidence-based framework for all professionals working in children's social care

(DfE and Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2022)

It's Our Care - Day of Action



On 22 June, over 100 care-experienced young people travelled to Parliament to speak directly with decision-makers about what needs to change in the care system.

This **Day of Action** was part of the **#ItsOurCare** campaign, a joint campaign with seven children's charities: **Become, NSPCC, Action for Children, National Children's Bureau, Coram Voice, Children's Society, and Barnardos.**

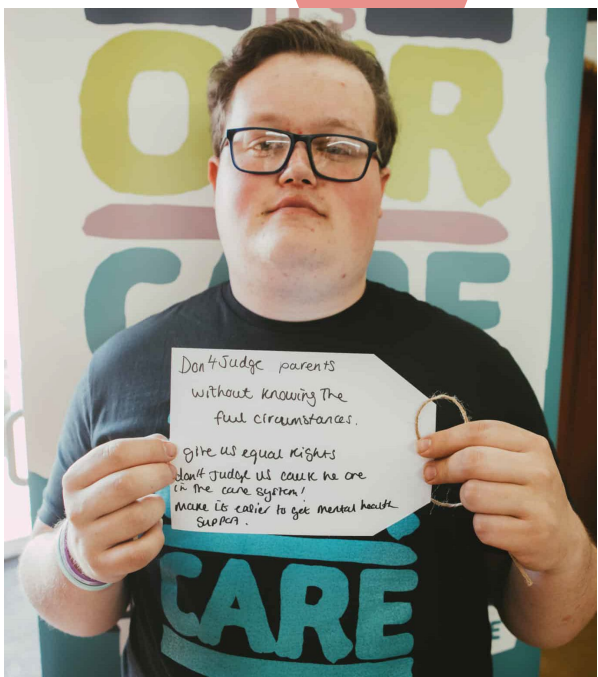
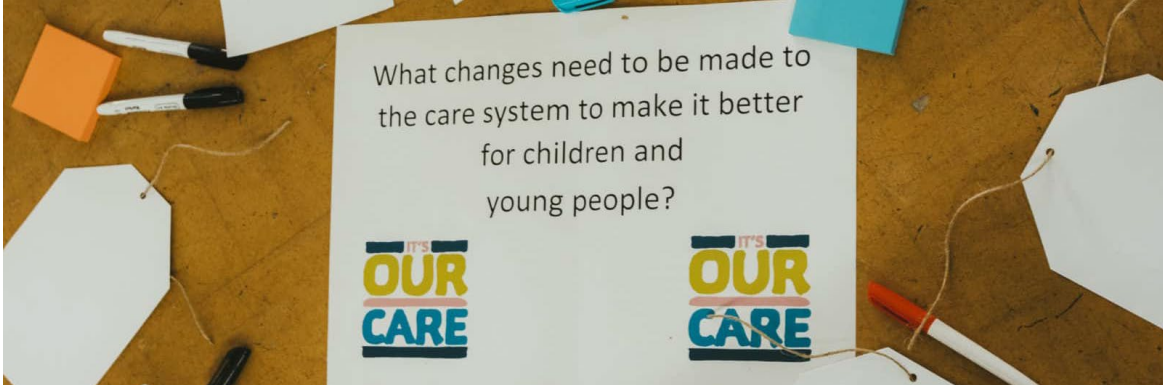
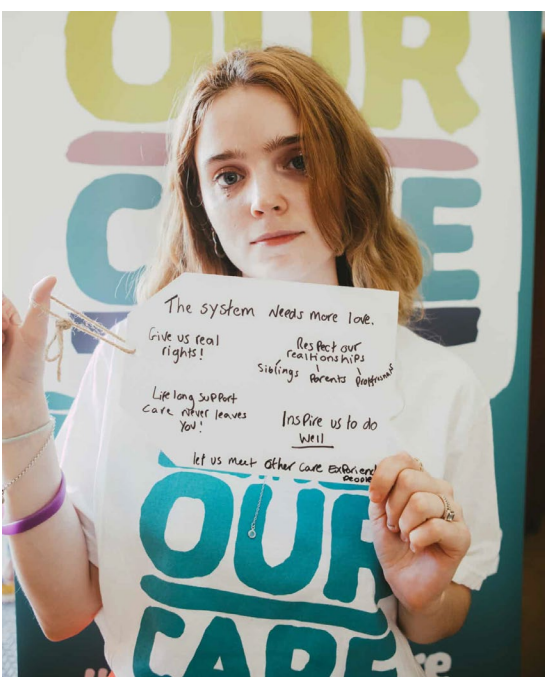
Young people shared their expert views and ideas with MPs and government ministers, calling on them to listen to – and act upon – the experiences of the 80,000 children in the care system today.

the Children's Commissioner, the Secretary of State for Education, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and discussed the biggest issues within the care system

Including the need for more support for younger children and the vital importance of early help, to value of knowing their rights and what avenues of support are available for children in care and care leavers

Other areas highlighted during the day were how every year, **1 in 3 children in care have to move home at least once**, and many have to move multiple times. Also, **41% of care leavers between the ages of 19 and 21 aren't in employment or education**, compared to just 12% of other young people.





We're not care-leavers, we're care-experienced.. care can't leave us.. it's part of our identity

