

How often will I have meetings?

You will have your first meeting within 28 days of being looked after.

Your second meeting will be no later than 12 weeks after your first meeting.

After that they will be every 6 months.

If you have any big changes in your life, we might have extra meetings so that we make sure that all the decisions are in your best interests and you are part of any decisions made.

If you want an earlier meeting for any reason you can request one.

How long will your IRO be involved?

For as long as you are looked after you will have independent reviewing officer and you can contact them by telephone or e mail. If you have anything you want to discuss.



INSERT RELEVANT IRO
PROFILE HERE

I.R.O.

WHO ARE WE?

Independent reviewing officers work for Durham County Council but we are independent of the social work teams and their managers. Which means we can challenge decisions made if we feel it is not in your best interest.

Why do I need an IRO?

When we become a looked after young person you will be given an IRO who will make sure that whatever is happening is right for you and for your plan for the future.

This can be about, where you live ,who you live with, your education, health, who is important to you.

We will listen to your views about these things and about how you keep your links with the people who are important to you.

We will look at your plan with you and those who are involved in making a plan for the future, to make sure this is right for you

How will I meet you?

Before you meet us, you will be sent our profile which includes a picture and some information about your IRO . The IRO profile will include email addresses and phone numbers so that you can get in touch if there is anything you think the IRO can help you with.

I'm sure you will have lots of questions to ask us face to face. We realise that you will be meeting lots of different people with lots of different roles. So as IROs we want to make it easy for you to understand what we do. We have put together this information which we hope will help.

We can visit you before your meeting and talk about what you want to say in the meeting to help you create a plan for the meeting and to support you to chair your own meeting. These visits can be face to face or on video call.

When does the IRO become involved?

Within 28 days of becoming looked after you will have a looked after meeting. Your IRO will contact you before this to chat about what we will talk about and listen to your views wishes and feelings.

This will include whether it is okay for you to come to your meetings and make plans for this so you feel comfortable.

Your IRO will keep in touch with you between meetings and will be there to support you to talk about your views, wishes and feelings and make sure you are part of any decisions made.

Before your meeting your social worker will have spoken to you to help decide who you want there.

What happens at my meeting?

We can help you to talk about certain things ?

- What was decided at my last meeting?
- When can I see my friends ?
- What do my family think ?
- What is in my care plan ?
- What have I been up to ?
- How is school/college?
- How healthy am I?
- When can I see my family ?

What happens at my meetings?

We really want to make sure that we discuss the things that are important to you so we will talk to you before your meeting to make sure that we know what is important to you .

Your IRO will also talk to your family, social worker and school and anyone involved in planning your care about your plan and how things are going for you. Making sure that everything that should have happened has happened.

If there are any big changes in your life the IRO will be told and if needed we will arrange a meeting so that everyone involved, including you, can discuss what needs to happen next.



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