

Guide to a Review Meeting

It is a meeting that must be held for all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority. The review can be done as one meeting or as a few different meetings. The review is about YOU, and it is important that YOU have your say. It helps check how things are going for you, what we're worried about and to see if your care plan needs to change.

Do I go to my review?

Yes, it is your meeting, and we would like you to be part of it. You can stay for the whole meeting or be in a room nearby where you can hear what is being said. If you don't want to come you could write down what you think and your social worker or someone you choose, will read out your thoughts.

Where are reviews held?

The best place is somewhere you find comfortable - such as where you live, school, a council building or somewhere else that you want it to be.

Who else will be there?

Talk to your social worker about who you want to be there. Usually you, your carer, your mum, dad, or someone else in your family, your social worker, and the independent reviewing officer (IRO) who will lead the meeting. Other people could be a teacher or an adult you trust.

When do reviews happen and how long do they take?

One month after you are first looked after, then within 3 months, then usually every 5-6 months. The time and date should suit you and should not take place at a time that will mean you miss lesson time. The length of time depends on how much there is to talk about.

What happens at reviews?

Talk this over with your carer or social worker and IRO before the review to discuss how you want the meeting to take place. You might want to take the lead in chairing the meeting, with the support of your IRO or you might want to write things down. You will be listened to, and your wishes and feelings must be considered. A date will be made for your next review, and you will get a copy of the report from the review.

What if I don't understand something?

If you don't understand what someone says you can ask them or your IRO to explain. Your social worker may also be able to help. You also have the right to make a complaint. If you don't already know how to do this you can contact the User Voice and Participation Advocacy and Complaints on Freephone 08000 562 132 (not free from mobiles), text 07805 846 386 or email: be.heard@surreycc.gov.uk

It is **YOUR** meeting and it is **about** YOUR future

