

There are usually lots of questions children ask when they have a social worker come visit them, so here are the answers to some of the most common questions other children have asked...

What do you have to do to be a social worker?

Social workers have to do well in school and sixth form/college before they go to university for three years to study how to be a social worker. Social Workers have been trained on how to speak to children and adults.

Are you going to take me away from my family?

Social workers work really hard to make sure children/young people are kept with their families as long as it is safe. Social workers will work with lots of other professionals including Police Officer and Judges to make a decision like this because it's a really big decision to make.

Will you tell my parents what I have said?

It depends on how old you are and your understanding of things. Social Workers can't keep secrets if it puts you or anyone else in danger.



Can I tell my social worker anything?

YES! Even if you think it is a silly question, something you want to ask, or if something is bothering you, please tell your social worker.

Will I get in trouble for saying something to the social worker?

No, Social workers are not teachers and we will not tell you off for telling us something! It's really important that you are open and honest with your social worker, if your social worker doesn't know what's going on they can't try to make things better for you and your family!

What is Social Services?



What to expect from your social worker?

Social workers are professional people who help children and their families to improve their lives. Whilst working with you, they will:

- Listen to what you have to say and talk things through with you
- Support you and help keep you safe
- Help you understand and think about the good and not so good things happening in your life
- Treat you and your family with respect



Why is a social worker coming to see me?

Social Workers get information called a referral. This can be from a teacher, doctor, nurse, police officer, a neighbour, a parent or anyone who is worried about a child. When social workers get a referral they come out to see you at home or at school to listen to you and work out how we can help you.



What happens during the visit?

When social workers come and see you they will ask you questions to get to know you and your family. They will speak to your parents and guardians and other adults that know you best including teachers at school, the school nurse, doctor and any other professional that works with your family. The information Social Workers look for can include if you have any disabilities, if you need extra support with your learning, who lives with you and where you live, how your wider family members are, how well you and your family get along, if you are happy or sad, if your parents need any help looking after you, and if you are safe. There are also other things they will look at, such as your home and your bedroom. Once the social worker has gotten this information, they have to write a report. This is called an Child and Family Assessment.

What is included in the Child and Family Assessment?

The assessment looks at different areas in your life, including 'what are people worried about'. This can include information from you, your parents/guardians and professionals around you. We also look at "what do people think is working well", stating the good, positive things that happen in your life, as well as "what needs to change", such as those areas were things can be better for you and your family.

What happens after the Assessment is complete?

After the Assessment is complete the social worker will normally have four options on what happens next.

1. No further action – This happens when the social worker is happy that you and your family are safe and happy and they have no worries for you.
2. Strengthening Families or Partnership Team – This happens when the social worker feels there are some areas where your family may need support, but you don't need a social worker, so a support worker will work with you instead.
3. Child in Need Plan – This happens when a social worker has some worries about you and your family and wants to make sure you have the right support to help improve things for you and your family. On a Child in Need Plan the social worker will visit you every 3-5 weeks, until the worries have gone away or there is a plan in place to make the social worker less worried.
4. Child Protection Plan – This happens when a social worker is worried about you and your family. A social worker comes to visit you once every two weeks, sometimes every week, until the worries have gone away or there is a plan in place to make the social worker less worried.

