What's it all about?
The Departments of Health and Education have made a new plan for children in care - we want to make sure that you get the help you need to be the best that you can be.

We talked to lots of people about how we could make things better for children in care - including you, through VOYPIC.

Now, we want to know what YOU think of our plan.

Our promises
We make these promises whether you are in care, maybe going into care or leaving care.

Before you go into care... we will help your family to keep you from coming into care in the first place but we will always do what is best for you.

When you are in care... we will do things to help you if you are worried, to help with your feelings or to do well at school.

When you leave care... if you are going home we would support you and your family or when you leave care if you are older and going to live on your own.

Like a parent
When a family cannot take care of a child social workers or other carers will look after the child. They will be just like the child's parents and will keep the child safe and always do what is best for the child.
Did you know...

There are nearly 3,000 children in care here.
Most of them live in foster care.
Only a small number live in children’s homes.

Helping children who might be coming into care or who are just leaving care.

You said
- You want to have a say in plans for you.
- You want to keep seeing your family and friends.
- You want to feel safe and secure where you live.
- You want to get on well with your carers.
- You want to get help at school.

We need to know
- Do you agree?
- What do YOU think we should do?

What we will do
We will look at what we do to help - and try to do it better.

Helping families

Foster care

Helping children in care with disabilities

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Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk
You said
I don't think I have a plan
I'm not getting a choice if I go to fostering or not
I make all my decisions myself

Did you know...?
A lot of children in care don't know enough about their family
Just over half of younger children said someone talked to them about their plan

What we will do
Every two years we will ask children what they think of being in care
We will make sure that children in care with disabilities get the help they need
We will make sure that every child in care has someone to speak up for them
We will try to make Looked After Children reviews better

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?
Did you know….?
A lot of children in care are worried about their health
Sometimes children in care have a tough time with their feelings and the way they behave
Quite a few children in care sometimes feel sad and worry a lot about things

What we will do
Make sure that children in care can have an all round health check up every year - if they want to. We will also make sure they can get health advice and support when they want.
Make sure that children in care get the right support to help them be happy and not worry.

You said
If I don't eat healthy enough I might get bad health problems in the future
I worry about heart problems in my family

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?
What we will do

- Make a rule that every child has an education plan
- Help you to have a good learning experience and do the best you can
- Help children to go to after school clubs and to go on activities outside school
- Check to see if education plans are helping children to do well

What do you think?

- Do you agree?
- What do YOU think we should do?

Did you know …?

- Most children in care have a plan about their education
- Many children in care don’t do as well at school as other children

You said

- Teachers need help to understand what it’s like to be in care
- When you go into care you should be able to stay at your own school
- Children’s homes should have wi-fi so children can do their homework
- Children in care may not have someone to help them with their homework

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- Do you agree?
- What do YOU think we should do?
What we will do
Make sure that children in care get the chance to play, have fun and do exercise

Make sure that children in care and care leavers make best use of Nature Reserves and country parks

Try, where possible, to put the Internet into children’s homes

You said
I would like money for guitar lessons
I would like to travel the world
You should have wi-fi in children home’s so you can play games with your mates

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?

Did you know ...?
Playing and doing fun things like art are good for children
All children at school get time to do sport and exercise

What do you think?
Did you know …?
Nearly half of children in care come from poor areas
Most care leavers are in education or on a training course.
About one in ten care leavers is unemployed.

What we will do
We will work with the Government to make sure that children in care get the best advice about money, education and jobs.

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?

You said
I can manage money myself
I don’t have enough money to manage
I want to grow up and get a good job and have a family.

work
and
MONEY

Work and Money

Work and Money

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Did you know ...?
Only a small number of children in care come from well off areas
Some people don’t understand what being in care means and look down on children in care

You said
There should be more stories about the good things children in care do
I want to work with young people in care

What we will do
We will make sure that everyone hears good stories about children in care - and that they understand what being in care is like
We will make sure that children in care get the chance to help people and feel good about themselves

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?