When there are problems in a family and they cannot care properly for their child, the Health and Social Care Trust will look after the child. The Trust becomes like a parent to the child – they are called a “Corporate Parent”.

The Trust, and everyone who works there, has to be the best possible parent. They have a duty to keep the child safe and to do what is best for the child.

What’s it all about?
The Departments of Health and Education have created a new plan for young people 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 young people in care - including you, through VOYPIC.

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

New plan for LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Our promises

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

Before you go into care... to help prevent you going into care we will support families, make decisions quickly and always do what is best for you.

When you are in care... we will make sure you have somewhere you can stay long term so you can build relationships, we will give you choices about where you live and will support those looking after you.

We will do things to help you if you have problems like substance misuse, poor mental health, getting into trouble or not doing well at school.

When you leave care... if you are going home we will support you and your family, or if you are going to live independently we will help you to do that well.

Corporate parent

When there are problems in a family and they cannot care properly for their child, the Health and Social Care Trust will look after the child. The Trust becomes like a parent to the child – they are called a “Corporate Parent”.

The Trust, and everyone who works there, has to be the best possible parent. They have a duty to keep the child safe and to do what is best for the child.
We KNOW that

- There are almost 3,000 young people in care here
- 78% are in foster care
- 5% are in residential care
- 44% of young people in care come from deprived areas

Some young people in care go on to great success in life but many don’t do as well as other children

You TOLD us

- You wanted to have a say in your care plans
- It’s important for you to keep seeing your friends and family
- You want to be protected from harm and to feel safe and secure where you live
- You need positive, long lasting relationships with your carers and other important people in your life
- You want support in school and someone to speak up for you if you need it

We need to KNOW

Do you agree with these actions?

- Residential care

- Foster care

- Helping children who are at risk of coming into care or are just leaving care

- Helping children in care with disabilities

- Supporting families

What else should we do?

How will we know that things have got better?

We will look closely at our services and try to improve them

THE BIG PICTURE
We KNOW that

41% of children and young people in care did not know enough about their family history

Around 6,700 Looked After Children Reviews happen in a year

29% of under 12s agree with decisions made in their care plan

31% of over 16s agree with decisions in their pathway plan

52% of under 12s said that someone talked to them about their care plan

39% of over 16s said that someone talked to them about their care plan

Plans for children and young people in care with disability need to involve schools and the adult services they will eventually move to

You TOLD us

I’m not getting a choice if I’m going to fostering or not

I don’t know what this is (care/pathway plan) and I don’t think I have one

I don’t normally go to any of them (Looked After Children Reviews). They used to ask me but I always said no. It’s alright if it is just one or two people, but I hate it if there is more, like seven or eight people, and they all ask you stuff

I make all my decisions myself

YOUR RIGHTS

We WILL

Every 2 years we will ask everyone involved to tell us what they think of care - including children and young people, carers and workers

We will make a law that says all children and young people, who are or who have been in care, can have someone to speak up for them - this will include adopted children

We will make plans for children in care with disabilities to make sure it is easy for them to get the range of services they need - especially when they are moving to adult services

We will look at how we run Looked After Children Reviews to make sure they are working well

What do YOU think?

Do you agree with these actions? How will we know that things have got better?

What else should we do?
**We KNOW that**
- 41% of children in care are worried about their health
- 11% of children in care have a disability
- 40% of children in care have behavioural problems and 5% have emotional problems
- 21% of children in care have depression or anxiety

**You TOLD us**
- If I don’t eat healthy enough I might get bad health problems in the future
- I worry about heart problems in my family
- I’m worried about the amount of drugs I’m abusing and the effect it is having on my life, being paranoid

**YOUR HEALTH**

**We WILL**
- Replace the yearly medical examination with an all round health and wellbeing check up. Young people can say no to this and opt to get advice, information support and a visit to a health professional when they want.
- Make sure that young people in care have their mental health and emotional wellbeing needs met.

**What do YOU think?**
- Do you agree with these actions?
- What else should we do?
- How will we know that things have got better?