

## ★ What matters when Social Workers and Guardians meet with me?

- ↻ *It is important to me to feel that I am being treated with respect and that you are listening to what I say.*
- ↻ *I don't want to feel talked at rather than talked to, and that you don't have to have the last say when you are talking to me.*
- ↻ *It matters to me that you acknowledge my feelings, and that I believe you understand how I feel.*
- ↻ *I feel that things I say can be paraphrased and some things left out, so it helps when you reflect back to me what you think I have said to make sure you have understood me.*
- ↻ *I understand how many people the Social Workers are dealing with every day but ....have patience, sometimes we can't get across all our points. Help us figure out our words*
- ↻ *If you can put yourself in our shoes to understand our experiences.*



## ★ Reflections on what helps when children and young people go to Court to meet the Judge

- ▶ *The SW and/or Solicitor should maybe go to court with the young person*
- ▶ *I would recommend going to Court or writing to the Judge or sitting in part of the case but not all of the court hearing.*
- ▶ *I would definitely encourage going to see the Judge.*
- ▶ *Going to court will depend on who is going with you*
- ▶ *Younger children may be more worried going to the court, it might be stressful to be involved in all of the Court hearing.*
- ▶ *Good to meet and talk to the Judge and get a view of who is part of it and who is the Judge.*
- ▶ *Children might be interested in the court building and they need to be involved with the people there, but not be in the court building all day*
- ▶ *Going to court made a difference to me because*
  - *It helped get a message across to the Judge quickly and more effectively*
  - *It influenced what mattered to me and what I would like to change*



## ★ My Participation in Looked After Child Review Meetings



- ✗ *I do go to my meetings now and I am appreciative of that.*
- ✗ *Did go to one LAC and looked at my notes...I was not allowed to edit it and not allowed to redact some words*
- ✗ *I felt ignored and felt the social workers avoided telling me about my LAC, I was not allowed to attend my LAC, I was not given the opportunity to attend and a lot of stuff was hidden*
- ✗ *It is up to the young person if they want to go to their Looked After Child meetings or not*
- ✗ *It can be uncomfortable*
- ✗ *I don't like attending, it is always bad, saying what has been going on, talking again about significant incidents.....I go sometimes, half way through the meeting*
- ✗ *Nothing good in them*
- ✗ *Better to be asked to attend and participate than not*
- ✗ *Better to be invited than excluded*
- ✗ *Give the young person a copy of their LAC report and before the meeting*
- ✗ *It be good to have an advocate for you at the meeting to get your message across*

## ★ What would help children and young people when they are first placed in care?

- ♡ *It would help when a person goes into care there would be someone to talk to, to listen, to understand what that young person is going through*
- ♡ *It would help to have a mentor, who can help that young person feel better about themselves and help them through and with being in care*
- ♡ *Young people are so easily influenced in residential care.....get into trouble, get into drugs and get pregnant...*
- ♡ *A mentor might be good*

