

Looked After Children's ENTITLEMENTS

CARE PLANNING

- When you start to be looked after, plans must be made for you to have a healthy, happy life. Your main plan is called your **care plan** and should say what your needs are now, how they will be met and plans for your future. This should bring together other plans - for health, personal education, and placement – and should say who is going to help you, and what support you will get, in every part of the plan.
- The plan should say the sorts of decisions that your carer is allowed to make, like on school trips and overnight stays.
- Within your care plan, you will have a **placement plan** which should take into account what you want. The placement plan will give you lots more detail about how you will be cared for, and how the people caring for you will help to meet your needs.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER

- The local authority must appoint an **Independent Review Officer**, or **IRO**, for you. This person's job is to make sure that the local authority does what is best for you whilst you are in care. Your IRO chairs your case reviews and they can also arrange for you to chair your own review if you want to. You should know who your IRO is.

CASE REVIEWS AND CASE RECORDS

- The law says that important decisions about you should not be taken without a review, for example, placement moves. Your **case reviews** are meetings, normally chaired by your IRO, to decide on your care plan, and to make any changes to it. Your IRO will check that your local authority does all the things agreed at your review. You should be asked about your wishes and feelings and these should be taken into account at your case review.
- Your local authority must also keep a **case record** for you, which will include your care plan, health and educational reports, social worker visit reports, your reviews and all other important information about you. Only the people with the right to see them can look at them – that includes you.

EDUCATION

- Looked after young people and care leavers aged 16-19 should get a £1,200 bursary if they stay in full-time education. Young people should get in touch with their education provider (e.g. school or college) to find out how to claim the bursary. For advice speak to student support services or your tutor, or go to www.direct.gov.uk/16-19-bursary
- There should be a designated teacher in the school to support your education - and you should know who that is, and what they are supposed to do.

ADVOCATES

- You have the right to an advocate to help you with complaints, or with any aspect of your care. Your social worker or IRO should tell you how you can get an advocate.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

- You have the right to make a comment or a complaint about your care. The local authority must say how they deal with comments and complaints, so there should be leaflets or posters for you to read.