

Responses to the Discovery Phase of the Care Review from children and young people supported by Barnardo's Scotland

As part of the Care Review Discovery Phase, Barnardo's Scotland gave all children and young people we support the opportunity to answer the Review's questions about what good care looks like and what the care review should focus on.

This is a summary of what they told us.

Children and young people told the Care Review what good care looks like to them:

- **Family – To feel part of a family**
 - A care system that recognises the importance of family life.
 - For some people this means staying together with their brothers and sisters, or other family, and for others it is about being supported somewhere they feel part of a family and where they feel loved and supported, not blamed.
- **Fun – To have opportunities for fun and enjoyment**
 - Getting opportunities to enjoy yourself and have fun. To do things - go to the park, celebrate birthdays and festivals, enjoy meals, go on holiday, and care for pets.
 - Having time with your friends and time and space for yourself.
 - Having access to personal money and choices in how to spend it.
- **Stability – To have a stable place to live**
 - Having consistent people in your life and a stable place to live. Not to be moved from place to place.
 - Not to have to move schools or leave friends behind.
- **Safety – To feel safe**
 - To feel safe where you live.
 - To be protected from harm and abuse.
- **Respect – To be respected, listened to and heard**
 - To have more choice and freedom.
 - To be treated well by staff and others who support you.
 - To be given equal chances and opportunities and to be protected from discrimination.

Children and young people think the Care Review should look at:

- **Timing and means – How the care system can support children and young people at the right time, in the right way**
 - A care system that supports children and young people at the right time and in the right way for them.
- **Relationships with social work – The relationship between social workers and children and young people**
 - Improving contact, support and communication between social workers and children and young people.
 - Prioritising strong and stable relationships between social workers and children and young people.
- **Support services – Strengthening links between the care system and other support services**
 - Access to support services and providers – particularly around mental health, employment and education, childcare, respite care.
 - Better links between youth and adult services.
- **Transitions – Support with transitions throughout the care journey**
 - Improving help, support and communication when moving children and young people between placements.
 - Help to prepare for leaving care: making sure they've got the practical and street skills they need.
- **Homelessness – Support to access the right accommodation and prevent homelessness**
 - Help to find the right place to live when leaving care.
 - Stopping the use of inappropriate homeless accommodation for young care leavers.
 - Better ongoing support, especially if they end up homeless.