

Introduction

At the beginning of the review, we were quick to set-out our initial plans for engaging with children, young people, adults, and families with lived experience of children's social care. On 18th March, we shared our early thoughts on how we intended to do this during the first phase of the review. Since then, the review team have led several online events, joined workshops organised by charities and other organisations, and had many one-to-one conversations with individuals who have contacted us.

The aims of our engagement activity

1. To build meaningful relationships with children, young people, adults, and families throughout the review to ensure that key issues are identified and can be explored at depth.
2. To support children, young people, adults, and families to participate in the review to help identify and test key recommendations in a way that is safe and comfortable for them.
3. To ensure those with lived experience feel empowered to influence change, and have opportunities to share their experiences and ideas, so that they are reflected in the review.

Our engagement so far

In the last couple of months, the review team held several engagement events and heard from over 700 individuals with lived experience of children's social care. These have included children and young people, recent care leavers, care-experienced adults, foster carers, kinship carers, adoptive families, adoptees, birth parents, families of children & young people with disabilities and many more.

The review team have been reaching out to different organisations and networks to help us speak with the children, young people, and families they support. We know that for us to learn from the diversity of experiences, particularly those seldom heard

groups, we need to ensure our engagement is accessible and in places that you feel safe and comfortable.

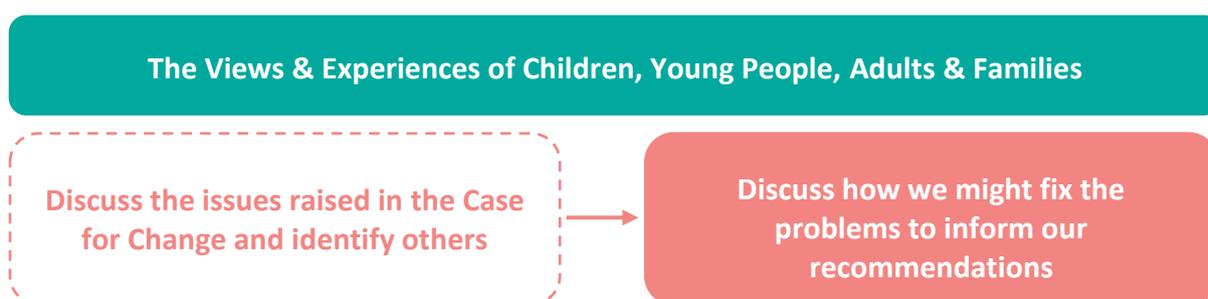
The case for change

Since the launch of the review, we have spoken to many individuals about their views and experiences of children's social care and received lots of different research and evidence. This has helped us to develop an initial picture of the biggest challenges within the children's social care system, and we are calling this the Case for Change.

During the next phase of the review, we want to hear your views on what has been identified in the Case for Change. We have created several questions for each part of the Case for Change, and we want to get your views on these before we start to think about the review's recommendations.

How will my involvement support the review?

We want any child, young person, adult, family or carer with experience of children's social care to make a meaningful contribution to the review. A diagram has been included below to help you understand the key stages of the review and how your involvement will inform and shape the recommendations.



What do we want to hear from you in the next phase of the review?

We will continue to give you the space and opportunity to share your views, ideas, and experiences of children's social care during the review to help us answer our big question.



“How do we ensure that children grow up in loving, stable and safe families, and what that is not possible, care provides the same foundations.”

As we move forward with the review and share the Case for Change, we will have some questions for you to make sure we fully understand what needs to change in the system. These might include:

1. **We have heard that children’s social care should focus more on helping families.** What sorts of things do you think families need help with? How do you think this help should be provided? How would you want to access this help, and would anything encourage you or put you off getting help?
 2. **We want children & young people to live in the best homes with the right support that meets their needs.** What should these homes look like? What would living there feel like? What support would they provide you?
 3. **We have heard that social workers need to spend more time with children, young people, and families.** What do you think social workers should be doing when working with you? What sorts of things should they be helping with? Where should they be meeting with you and how often?
 4. **We know different agencies and the wider community have an important role in supporting children, young people, and families.** What should be the role of children’s social care in the future? How should agencies work together to support children and families? What support needs to be available in the community?
 5. **We have heard that kinship arrangements provide children & young people the love, safety, and stability within their extended family, but this can often be overlooked.** What kinds of things do kinship carers need so that we can grow and support kinship care?
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How will we continue to support you to be involved?

There is no single format for you to be involved in the review, some people will be happy to participate in large events and others may want to speak directly with a member of the review team. We will continue to be flexible with our engagement activity to ensure everyone is supported to be involved in the review.

We have included some of the different ways you may want to be involved.

Method	Brief Description
Online Surveys	We will design and share surveys across different networks to support you to share your views and feedback to the review.
Expert by Experience Led Workshops	We will support those with lived experiences with the tools and materials to organise their own workshops and events.
One-to-One Interviews	We will ensure individuals can share their views and experiences with a member of the review team.
Group Discussions	We will organise regular events with different groups to get your views on the case for change, and potential solutions.
Regular Focus Groups	We will provide regular focus groups with different groups to explore the specific themes identified in the case for change.
Partnership Engagement	We will work with local authorities, charities, and different organisations to support you to share your views.
Design Workshops	We will organise events to think about potential solutions, where you can help us think about what children's social care should look and feel like in the future.
Ethnographic Research	We will work very closely with several different families to get a deep understanding of how they currently experience children's social care.

I want to be involved, what should I do?

There are a couple of ways for you to let us know that you want to be involved in the review.

Complete the Expression of Interest Form: We have designed a short form that you can complete to let us know you want to be involved. You can complete this short form by clicking the following link: [Engagement – Expression of Interest Form](#)

Send us an email: If you can't access or complete the Expression of Interest form, you can send us an email to let us know you want to be involved: review.childre socialcare@education.gov.uk

Please share this update with groups or individuals who may not see it, so that they can get involved

Support we will offer you:

We know that some of you may already have individuals and organisations in your lives that you trust and who can provide you with support before, during or after you engage with the review.

Where you already have a trusted relationship with someone in your life, we would encourage you to work with them. However, where this is not the case, the review has partnered with the NSPCC helpline and Childline to provide support for anyone participating with the review. We know that many of those we have engaged with so far have used these services and found them to be helpful.

You can find out more about the support available from these helplines by clicking on the following links:

- [NSPCC Helpline](#)
 - [Childline](#)
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