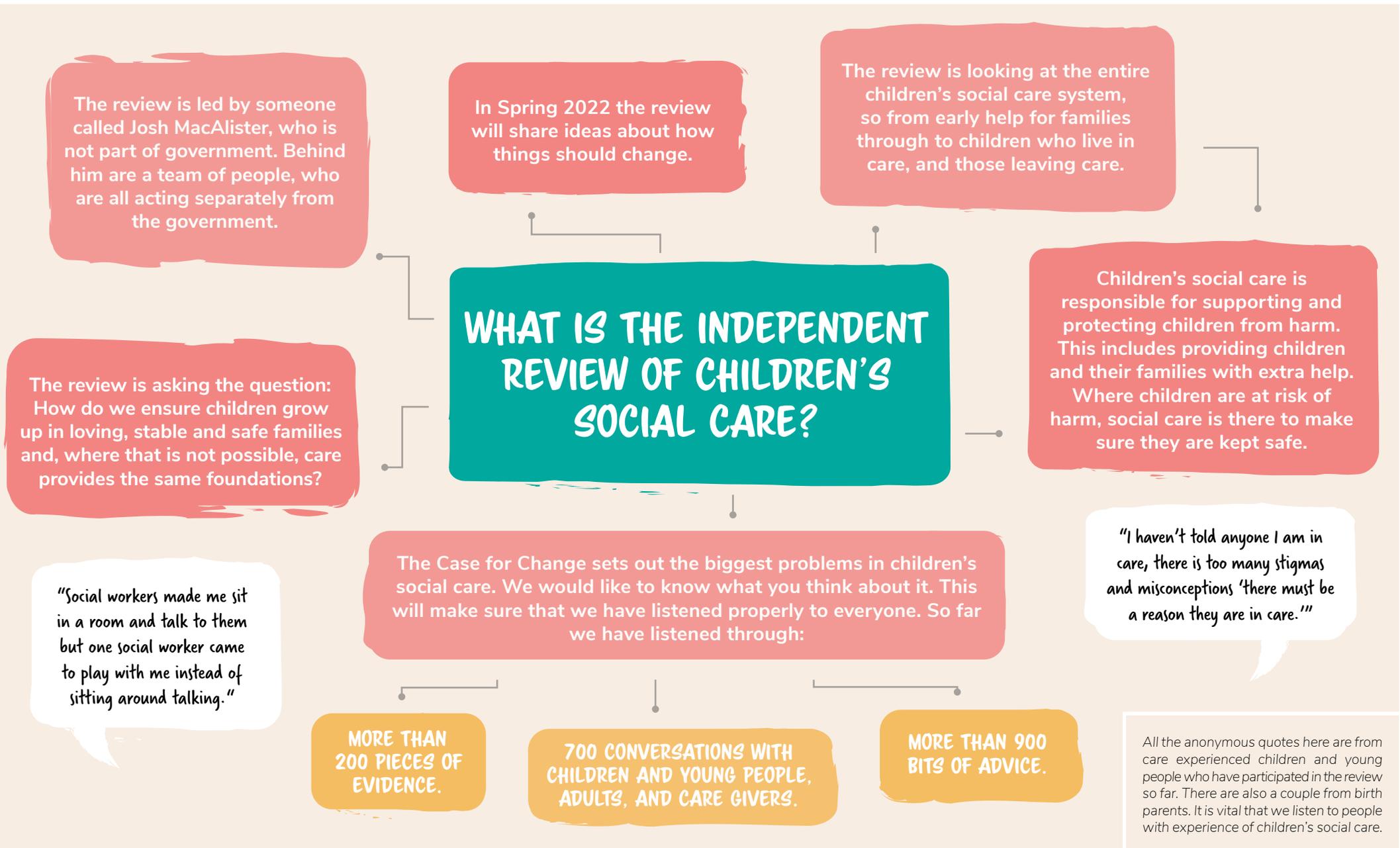


Youth summary





PROFESSIONALS NEED TO AGREE WHAT HELP WE SHOULD GIVE FAMILIES SO THAT MONEY IS SPENT ON THE RIGHT THINGS.

More money to improve support for families will help but is not the only answer.

THE STAFF WHO ARE DOING THIS WORK NEED THE RIGHT SKILLS TO DO IT WELL.

"There is no support when they know you are facing difficulties." - Parent

"My child shouldn't have got to the point of care, they should've put the support in early." - Parent

WE NEED TO HELP FAMILIES MORE.

Living in poverty, your ethnic background, or having parents who have been in care before, can affect your chance of having a social worker.

Most families have a social worker because they are struggling to raise their children and they might need help.

"As soon as a care leaver becomes pregnant or a parent everything gets criticised straight away. They say that because you were in care you don't know how to be a parent but statistically, they're criticising themselves for not being a good parent in the first place."

Families are investigated a lot but do not always get help.



"My introduction to social care was really bad, one minute you are with your family and the next you are being told you have to live with someone else. That is all that was said with no explanation. It took a while before anyone told me why I was in care."

How children are made safe, and the way risk is assessed could be better.

Professionals need to do more to keep teenagers safe when they are getting into trouble or in danger because of what is happening outside of their home.

WE NEED A BETTER CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM WITH SKILLS TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.

"Some people do not want to say they have problems in front of everyone. People are scared what other's think about them."

"When you move, you need support then as it can be a very challenging time and impact them in many ways. Support is needed when they move such as mental health support. It can be a very mentally challenging thing to happen as you are going to a new family or a new place to live."

We must support parents if it is decided they can't look after their children anymore.

The way professionals work often means they are not able to support children and families the way they would like to.

"The professionals in their lives play a big part. For example, social workers and support workers."

More permanent homes are needed when children cannot live with their birth parents.



THE CARE SYSTEM MUST BUILD NOT BREAK RELATIONSHIPS.

There are not enough homes in the right places with the right support for children.

"Relationship with teachers is also important and makes you feel safer and gives you mental stability when you are having a bad day."

Government is not behaving like a pushy parent for children in their care. This means that children do not get the help and support they need when they need it.

Children are often given a new home far away from where they have grown up, separated from their brothers or sisters, or have to move schools and lose friends.

Care can weaken rather than strengthen important relationships: many care experienced people report having small numbers of people they can trust.

"I had to leave everything behind, never got to speak to my friends from school ever again."

Children leaving care are not given the support or opportunities they need to have the same outcomes as their friends.

"My social worker arranged for me to go Nando's and see my brother. I got to still have a connection with him and we get to talk."

Social workers change too many times, and you need to keep telling people your story.

The secure accommodation, for children who need it, must improve so that it is offered at the right time and is helpful.

"Everything comes down to being in care, the behaviours is all because I was in care. 'you live up to the stigma and expectation of kids in school.'"

EVERYONE NEEDS LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS TO DO WELL - ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE GROWN UP IN CARE.



Social workers don't spend enough time with children and their families.

Police, schools, health, housing and children's social care should work better together.

"Social services follow the system and what you get is what is allowed. Sometimes workers care, but sometimes not. They care if you get education and health. If you don't follow the system you don't get help."

CHANGE WILL NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT CHANGING HOW SERVICES WORK.

"Good social work looks like a mum and a dad who will look after me forever"

Not enough money is being spent on helping families.

Services offer help based on their own rules, instead of what children and families need.

The cost of children's social care is increasing, but things are not getting better for children.

What Next?

It is really important that we continue to listen to children and young people. The final recommendations need to bring about real change and improve lives of children and families.

The review would like to know whether this Case for Change document has missed anything important. We want to hear about your ideas for what a better experience of Children's Social Care looks and feels like.

If you would like to be involved, please contact us at:

review.childre socialcare@education.gov.uk