

## About this newsletter

We've had a huge amount of interest in the review since we launched and have decided to round up our activity into a monthly newsletter.

## Case for Change feedback form closes 13 August 2021

It's just under six weeks since we published the Case for Change where we set out our early thinking on the problems facing children's social care in England. We need you to tell us if we are on the right track, if we have identified the right issues and are focussed on addressing the root causes of problems rather than just the symptoms.

If you haven't yet shared your feedback on the case for change you can do so by the 13th August 2021 here: <https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/case-for-change/>

## Summer engagement plans

In addition to written feedback we are also hearing directly from a lot of people through events we organise ourselves or which have been brought together by organisations representing care experienced people and the social care workforce.

A small flavour of the organisations we have met or attended sessions with in July:

...The Fostering Network, Fairer Fostering Partnership, The Children's Society, The Black Care Experience, Lewisham Virtual Schools, Family Justice Young People's Board, Trevi – Jasmine Recovery, Family Rights Group, Leap – Confronting Conflict, National Independent Visitors Network, Pause, ADCS Yorkshire & Humber, Wetherby Young Offenders Institution, Kinship, SaveLives, Lighthouse Children's Homes, the Early Intervention Foundation, NHS England, Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium, Just for Kids Law and many, many more, but we can't list them all in a short newsletter!

We have a lot of events in our diary over August. You can see some of our planned events on our website though please be aware many of the events have been arranged by others. One of the big things we learned from our first round of workshops is that while some people are happy to come to us, in fact many more like to share their thoughts in events organised by groups that they know and trust. So as well as organising our own events we are continuing to work with charities and organisations to bring people together and organise events we can attend.

Thank you in advance to all of you who will give up an hour in the sunshine this summer to instead share your views and experiences with the review team.

## Review Phases

The publication of the Case for Change marked the close of the first phase of our review – where we considered over a thousand submissions through the Call for Advice and Call for Evidence and hosted our first engagement events with the community of people with lived experience of children's social care.

We're now in the phase of understanding whether we have missed or misunderstood anything as well as delving into some of the issues in more detail. The huge number of engagement events, which have now broadened out to include the children's social care workforce, and meetings we have underway are just part of the focus for this period.

We will be probing the main themes of the review through deliberative 'open space' events and trying to get a deeper understanding of what life is like for families and children who are currently involved in the 'system' through local deep dives and studies.

We have also commissioned a rapid review of how decisions are made within the system – having an understanding of how the system produces the results it does is key to understanding how we can change things.

We will share more on this work in next month's newsletter.

## In case you missed it...

And finally a few things we have been tweeting about this month:

Review chair Josh MacAlister gave evidence to the Education Select Committee: <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/5252/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>

Josh also had a chat about the review with Scott and AI from the Adoption and Fostering podcast: <https://adoptionandfostering.podbean.com/e/an-interview-with-josh-mcalister-the-chair-of-the-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care/>

If you are a social worker please consider signing up to the What Works for Children's Social Care monthly polls, they are a great, light touch way to share your views on issues the review is considering: <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/polls/individual-registration/?key=AFbpLHPadXTNFJZL>