



Summary

Support us to grow
 Good care is where you felt safe, supported and had fun.
 For some of you being in care had been a positive experience and you wouldn't change anything about it.
 The right carers were important and you explored what made a 'home', not a 'placement'.
 You talked about specific support you wanted to improve, including:

- family time
- mental health support
- education
- preparation for independence

The best professionals for us
 Good relationships with professionals is key to making your care experience good.
 Changes made it harder to develop trusting relationships, but people who listen and care are key.
 You felt they should have the right training, including on:

- Understanding what makes you, you (LGBTQ+, belief, culture)
- mental health
- listening to young people

What children and young people wanted to say to the Care Review

Services designed for us
 You wanted services that work for you, that you can understand, rather than ones designed for and by adults.
 You felt the care system is designed to meet the needs of adults, local authorities, government (and sometimes computer systems or processes).
 Areas of the care system that don't work for you:

- Not enough focus on building good relationships
- Not being able to do the same things as your friends
 - Not being listened to
 - Slow decisions and red tape
- Lack of information about decisions or your rights
 - Poor language used
 - Difficulties with complaints
 - Many cliff edges in support

The same support wherever we are
 You wanted a clearer and fairer system to remove the postcode lottery of care.
 Care often felt like a lottery where, if you were lucky and in care in the right area, you would get support.
 You pointed out differences in what was offered to young people in the same local authority, which did not feel fair.

Speech bubbles:

- "It is like a second family who loves you but that is only if you get a good foster carer."
- "Counselling provided when put into care."
- "Training... about what it's like being in care and why we should be listened to."
- "I know my social worker cares because they text me out of hours."
- "A home is where you feel safe, it's homely, comfortable, and decorated nice, you feel part of the family, you're listened to and you have your own space."
- "If we want to stay with a friend then do the checks and allow us to have some fun and be normal."
- "My brother was 4 years younger than me and he has had a lot more support offered."
- "A system designed for you would make sure you have the right information."
- "A lot of cliff edges seem to be around money"

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