

A Parent's Guide to Child Care Reviews

If you would like this information in
another format or language, please
contact: 01422 393340

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- **What is a child care review?**

A review is a meeting to talk about your child's progress whilst they are being looked after. People who are involved in your child's life get together to discuss your child's day to day care and plans for the future (your child's Care Plan).

- **Who will usually be at the review?**

- Your child - if they are old enough.
- You, and anyone else with parental responsibility
- Your child's social worker.
- Your child's present carers.

We try to keep the meeting small so that children can feel free to talk openly. But sometimes other people are asked to come, such as your child's teacher, to help when there is a problem to sort out.

An Independent Reviewing Officer will be there to see that everyone is treated fairly, and that all the important issues are talked about, and to take an independent look at what is happening for your child.

- **Can I bring someone to help me?**

Yes, you can bring someone you trust to support you at the meeting, and your child may also bring someone to support them. Supporters may be a friend or a professional advocate. If there are court proceedings involved you may want your solicitor to attend. Please let your child's social worker know.

- **Other information**

If you would like to know more about a specific meeting or if you will need a translator to help you in a meeting, please let your child's social worker know.

- **How often are looked after reviews held?**

The first review must be within 28 days of your child being looked after, the second review must be within the next three months, then reviews must be held at least every six months - more often if necessary.

- **Before the meeting**

You will receive a booklet to write your views in and post back to the Independent Reviewing Officer, and you can ask to meet the Independent Reviewing Officer before the meeting. If you will need help during the meeting, or to get to the meeting, please ask well before.

- **After the meeting**

The Independent Reviewing Officer will write a short, clear report, recording the decisions made and stating who will do what and the agreed time scales for action. Everyone at the meeting should then follow what has been agreed.

The next review will look back to see that the decisions have been followed.

- **Can anyone be excluded from the meeting?**

In exceptional cases parents and their supporters can be excluded from their child's review. Alternative ways for parents to make their views known will be arranged.

- **What if I am not happy with the way the meeting is held?**

You can complain to our Compliments and Complaints Team, FREEPOST HX2770, 1 Park Road, Halifax HX1 2BR
Tel: 01422 393882 Fax: 01422 393815
E-mail: socialservices.complaints@calderdale.gov.uk