

# Independent Visitors

*for young people  
in care*



# What *is an* Independent Visitor?

Young people who are fostered or living in children's homes sometimes don't see their families or may have only occasional visits. It can help to have a person separate from their social worker or carer to visit and get to know them.

Independent visitors for Leicester are fully supported and trained. The scheme is voluntary, though visitors are fully reimbursed for all their expenses.

## WHAT DO YOU DO TOGETHER?

Your role is to meet with the young person, listen to what they have to say, offer advice and support when needed and have fun.

You can take them on outings, activities such as walking, bowling, visiting museums, football or other places where you share interests.

You might help them to speak up for themselves and put over their views about their care and plans.

The time you spend together is their special time.

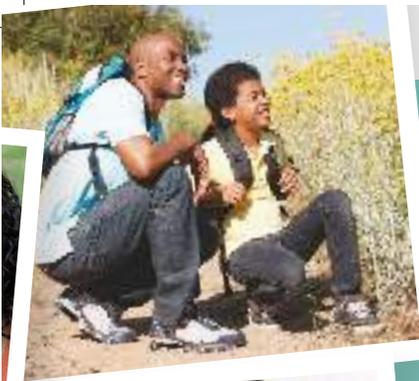
## IS IT FOR ME?

If you want to make a positive difference in the life of a young person, but don't have the time or space to foster, this scheme could be just what you are looking for.

You need to have a good sense of humour along with a great deal of patience and understanding.

You will also need the commitment to stick with a young person who will grow to depend on your time together.





### NEED TO HAVE?

Most Independent Visitors meet up with the young person for two to three hours each month.

### HOW LONG WILL I BE INVOLVED WITH A YOUNG PERSON?

Young people may outgrow the need for a visitor or move on. At this stage if you still wish to continue in the scheme, we will introduce you to someone else who does need you.

Many visitors remain friends with the young person throughout his or her childhood and teenage years and go on to stay in touch with them as adults. Even if it only by text or phone, you may wish to stay in contact even if one of you moves out of the area.



*“IT’S HAVING  
SOMEONE THERE WHO  
WILL LISTEN TO  
ME”*

JOSH (12)





## What to do next?

All kinds of people become independent visitors, including single people as well as people in relationships. However the scheme does not allow couples to befriend the same young person.

There will be someone to help you along every step of the way. You can expect excellent training and preparation before you begin along with care and support once you are matched.

We discuss which age-group you are interested in supporting and look at the skills you bring to the scheme to ensure we achieve a great match between young person and visitor.

If you are thinking about becoming an independent visitor, we'd love to talk to you.

Please ring **0116 454 4500** for a discussion or to ask us to send further information to you.

**Fostering & Adoption Centre**  
**11 Friar Lane**  
**Leicester City Council LE1 5RB**

**T: 0116 454 4500**

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