What's it all about?
The Departments of Health and Education have made a new plan for children in care - we want to make sure that you get the help you need to be the best that you can be.

We talked to lots of people about how we could make things better for children in care - including you, through VOYPIC.

Now, we want to know what YOU think of our plan.

Our promises
We make these promises whether you are in care, maybe going into care or leaving care.

Before you go into care... we will help your family to keep you from coming into care in the first place but we will always do what is best for you.

When you are in care... we will do things to help you if you are worried, to help with your feelings or to do well at school.

When you leave care... if you are going home we would support you and your family or when you leave care if you are older and going to live on your own.

Like a parent
When a family cannot take care of a child social workers or other carers will look after the child. They will be just like the child's parents and will keep the child safe and always do what is best for the child.

Participation Network
Supporting the Public Sector to engage Children & Young People
Did you know ...?
There are nearly 3,000 children in care here
Most of them live in foster care
Only a small number live in children’s homes

You said
You want to have a say in plans for you
You want to keep seeing your family and friends
You want to feel safe and secure where you live
You want to get on well with your carers
You want to get help at school

We need to know
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?

Helping families
Foster care
Helping children in care with disabilities
Children’s homes

Helping children who might be coming into care or who are just leaving care

What we will do
We will look at what we do to help - and try to do it better

The Big Picture

Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk
Did you know...?
A lot of children in care don’t know enough about their family
Just over half of younger children said someone talked to them about their plan

You said
I don’t think I have a plan
I’m not getting a choice if I go to fostering or not
I make all my decisions myself

What we will do
Every two years we will ask children what they think of being in care
We will make sure that children in care with disabilities get the help they need
We will make sure that every child in care has someone to speak up for them
We will try to make Looked After Children reviews better

What do you think?
Do you agree? What do YOU think we should do?

Your rights

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Do you agree? What do YOU think we should do?

Your rights
Did you know....?
A lot of children in care are worried about their health

Sometimes children in care have a tough time with their feelings and the way they behave

Quite a few children in care sometimes feel sad and worry a lot about things

What we will do
Make sure that children in care can have an all round health check up every year - if they want to.
We will also make sure they can get health advice and support when they want.

Make sure that children in care get the right support to help them be happy and not worry.

You said
If I don’t eat healthy enough I might get bad health problems in the future
I worry about heart problems in my family

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?

YOUR HEALTH

Supporting the Public Sector to engage children & young people
What we will do

- Make a rule that every child has an education plan.
- Help you to have a good learning experience and do the best you can.
- Check to see if education plans are helping children to do well.
- Help children to go to after school clubs and to go on activities outside school.

Did you know …?

- Most children in care have a plan about their education.
- Many children in care don’t do as well at school as other children.

What do you think?

- Do you agree?
- What do YOU think we should do?

You said

- Teachers need help to understand what it’s like to be in care.
- When you go into care you should be able to stay at your own school.
- Children’s homes should have wi-fi so children can do their homework.
- Children in care may not have someone to help them with their homework.

What do you think?

- Do you agree?
- What do YOU think we should do?
What we will do
Make sure that children in care get the chance to play, have fun and do exercise

Make sure that children in care and care leavers make best use of Nature Reserves and country parks

Try, where possible, to put the Internet into children’s homes

What do you think we should do?

You said
I would like money for guitar lessons
I would like to travel the world
You should have wi-fi in children’s homes so you can play games with your mates

Did you know…?
Playing and doing fun things like art are good for children
All children at school get time to do sport and exercise

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?
Did you know …?

Nearly half of children in care come from poor areas.

Most care leavers are in education or on a training course.

About one in ten care leavers is unemployed.

What we will do

We will work with young people to make sure that children in care get the best advice about money, education and jobs.

We will work with the Government to make sure that care leavers get the best support around housing, money and work.

You said

I can manage money myself.

I don't have enough money to manage.

I want to grow up and get a good job and have a family.

What do you think?

Do you agree?

What do YOU think we should do?
Did you know …?
Only a small number of children in care come from well off areas
Some people don’t understand what being in care means and look down on children in care

You said
There should be more stories about the good things children in care do
I want to work with young people in care

What we will do
We will make sure that everyone hears good stories about children in care - and that they understand what being in care is like
We will make sure that children in care get the chance to help people and feel good about themselves

What do you think?
Do you agree?
What do YOU think we should do?