

# Reach Out and Have Your Say

A guide for Slough's children looked after and care leavers



It is important that you are provided with different ways to share your thoughts, feelings or wishes about the support and services you receive. Your guide provides you with information about each of the different ways you can have your say.

## Reach Out! and Space2talk Care Council

In Slough we have two groups for our care council. Reach Out! is for young people looked after aged 11 to 17 and Space2talk is for care-experienced young people aged 16 to 24. Don't worry if you are younger as there will be other activities for you to take part in.

The different groups help young people to express their views and opinions about what is good or not so good about the services and support you receive. You share ideas about what could be done to make things better for Slough's care-experienced children and young people.

Most importantly you chat about the things that matter to you!

Young people meet up in The Chat Room, a designated safe space created just for those young people receiving a service from Slough Children First.

Young people's views and feedback are shared with the managers at Slough Children First who are responsible for the services you receive.



CHAT



MAKE FRIENDS



SHARE IDEAS



TREATS

## Young Advisors

If you attend Reach Out! and Space2talk you also get to meet with senior managers from Slough Borough Council and Slough Children First at something called the Reach Out! Panel. As a young advisor you talk directly with managers about what is important to all of Slough's children looked after and care leavers.

As a young advisor you are not only representing the views of other children and young people to your 'corporate parents' but you also give advice on how services could be made better.

As a young advisor you are also invited to each Corporate Parent Panel meeting.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF in other ways >

### Annual surveys

Each year we will ask you to share your views on the promises made to you in the Pledge to Children Looked After or Local Offer for Care Leavers. It is so important for you to take part and let us know how you feel to make sure we are getting things right.

### My Review

#### My Views

Your review is all about you and you can use your form before each of your review meetings. The form will help you to express your views, thoughts and feelings and it's an opportunity for you to write down any questions you may have. There are different forms for children and young people aged 4 to 17.

### 'In Our Shoes'

#### Training

Young people created their own training called 'In Our Shoes' so professionals (like your social worker, IRO, PA, carer) gain a better understanding of what it is like to be a care-experienced child or young person.

### Young

#### Interviewers

It is important that we involve you in recruiting the right people who support and care for you such as your social workers, IROs or personal advisors.



Hi, I'm Sharon, your participation officer. I have made a short film to tell you why it is so important that we hear your views, wishes and feelings. To watch the film or to find out how you can use your My Review My Views form or take part in a care council group chat click this link [Care Council - Slough Children First](#) or scan here with a mobile phone camera. I hope to hear from you or to see you soon.



# Rewards for getting involved in the Care Council

- You go out for meals together and arrange other fun activities like bowling.
- We celebrate each others birthdays and have cake.
- Each year you will receive a certificate to say thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the Care Council!
- You build your confidence and learn lots of new skills that will help you in your future.
- Being part of the Care Council is a voluntary role and therefore will look great on your CV and college, university or job applications.
- You have fun and make some great new friends.

## By getting involved in a care council group you have the opportunity to:

- Have a say on the issues that matter to you, be listened to and make a difference.
- Meet the professionals that can make a change.
- Share your expert advise on how we can improve things like your section on our website, information packs and My Review My Views forms.
- Help Slough Children First make services better for your future.
- Meet up with other young people from across the UK at events such as the National Young People's Bench Marking Forum and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Young People (APPG).

**Whether you choose to use your My Review My Views form before each of your review meetings or take part in a care council group, you can find out more by visiting the Children and Young People's section on our website:**  
[Children & Young People - Slough Children First](#)

**The information can be translated in to 13 languages and there is the option to use the Read Aloud function.**

## Here's what young people say about why they get involved...



### Corporate Parent Panel

Being a member of the Care Council means you also get to represent the views of children looked and care leavers at something called the 'Corporate Parent Panel' (sometimes shortened to **CPP**). Young people share what is going well and what needs to be changed or improved to make services better for you all.

#### What is a 'corporate parent'?

When you are in care the local authority acts in place of your parents. They care for you and do all of the things for you that your parents would. However, it is not one person who is responsible for this, but the whole of Slough Borough Council, Slough Children First, every Slough councillor and others that support you such as:



#### What is a 'corporate parent panel'?

The Corporate Parent Panel is a group of elected members (Councillors), senior managers from Slough Children First and from Slough Borough Council, as well as other people from health, housing and foster carers, who are responsible for ensuring children looked after and care leavers get the best experiences in life!

To find out how you can get involved in your Care Council please contact Sharon Stephenson, Participation Officer:

Text/WhatsApp 07591 990111    Email [Sharon.Stephenson@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:Sharon.Stephenson@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk)

