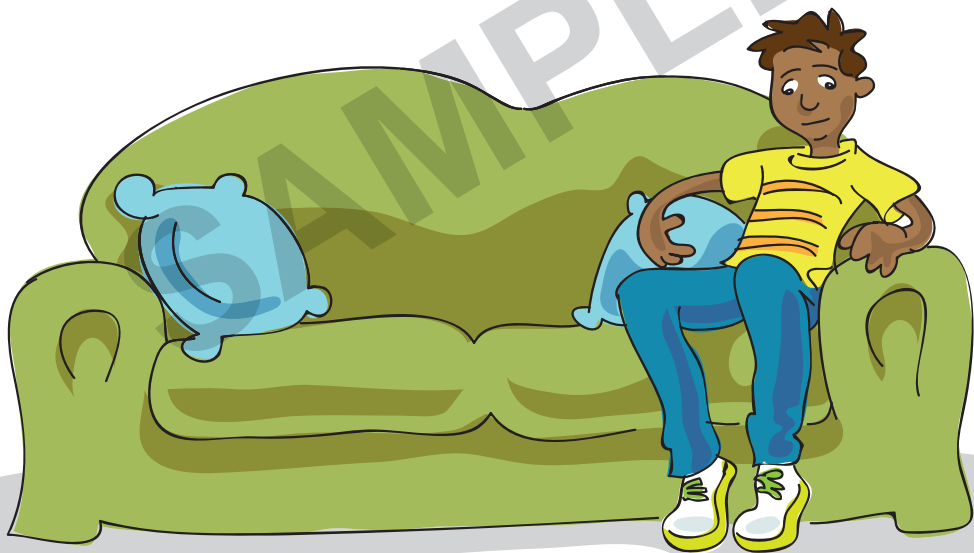


# Information for Children & Young People About Independent Visitors

Helping children and young people



giving a voice to  
children, young people  
and vulnerable adults

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pobl ifanc ac oedolion  
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## What is an Independent Visitor?

Independent Visitors (IVs) are for children in care who have little or no contact with their family and would like to have an adult friend who is outside the care system.

### An IV is someone who:

- Will listen to you
- Isn't paid to be with you
- You can have fun with
- Wants to be with you
- Is just for you and no-one else
- Is NOT a carer or social worker!



## What does an IV do?

Your IV would visit you once a month either at the weekend or in the evening. You and your IV will plan the time of your next visit together so that you always know when you will be seeing your IV. If for any reason your IV could not make the time you had arranged they would always let you know and arrange a new time.

### You and your IV might go:

- Bowling
- Walking
- To see a film
- Attend your review if you want them to
- Whatever you enjoy!



## If I decide I want an IV what do I do next?

Tell your social worker and they will make a referral. It can sometimes take time for us to find the right IV for you. This is because we want to make sure they are good people who get on with young people. We also make sure they are ECRB - Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checked, provide references, attend training and an interview to make sure they are safe.

## Then what?

When we think we have found someone who would be a good IV for you, we will contact you and talk to you about them. If you then want to meet them we will arrange to bring the IV to your home to meet you and to see if you like them. If you both get on, you can arrange to meet again. After you have had a few visits you can decide if you want to continue to see them.

## How long can somebody be my IV?

For as long as you are both happy and able to keep seeing each other. This might be for a few months or many years. We will check with you both every so often to make sure things are okay.

## What if I'm not happy with my IV?

If you are unhappy with your IV please tell us. It would be helpful to let us know why you are unhappy. We will listen to what you say. If you decide you no longer want an IV or would like someone else then contact us and tell us what you want.



## Confidentiality

What you talk about to your IV is private. They do not tell other people about your private matters unless there is a very good reason to do so. If you tell your IV something that makes them think that you or another child may be harmed, then they will have to talk to someone else about it.

He always listens to what I have to say

Some people think that it's not cool to have an IV, but I like it because she only knows about the "other stuff" if I choose to tell her

We always have a laugh!!

She's my IV, nobody else's - just for me



NYAS Helpline

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