



Your Life, Your Care (ages 4-7)

For the adult reading this survey:

Hello.

This survey gives a voice to children aged 4 to 7 who find themselves in care. It is designed to be read to the child by a trusted adult, who completes it on their behalf. The answers will help us to better understand children's experiences of being in care. We will use the information to improve the care system.

How can you help?

You can help us by sitting with the child who is in care, asking them these questions, and filling in the survey for them. When doing this, be mindful that it is the child/young person's opinion we are after. This means that we want to record *exactly* what the child says. We ask therefore that you do not paraphrase, interpret or attempt to clarify what they want to say, and try to remain as neutral as possible while supporting them.

We have designed this survey carefully so it will be easy and fast to complete. All 16 questions are optional, and the survey has been set up so that it is possible for a child to choose not to respond to some questions.

What happens to this child's answers?

We will not ask for the child's name. This means that no one will know what answers they give to the questions except you – the trusted adult. We will group all the answers together to give an overall picture of how children in your area of the country feel about being in care.

What if the child raises a safeguarding concern?

Children and young people are told that the survey is confidential and therefore adults should only intervene if there is a safeguarding issue.

The survey asks a range of questions about a child's life, some of which may have brought up difficult memories for them. If you have safeguarding concerns you should:

- Let the child or young person finish the survey;
- Check with the child or young person what their answer might mean. For example, they may have ticked the wrong box, or be thinking of past events.

If you still have safeguarding concerns, follow the safeguarding procedures within your local authority and inform the appropriate person. Let the child know that this is occurring. As the survey is confidential, you should not disclose any information about the child or young person's other survey responses that do not specifically relate to the safeguarding concern.






Please complete these questions on behalf of the child


Is the child a...

- Girl
- Boy

Are they...

- Asian
- Black
- Mixed
- White
- Other (please specify what)  _____

Who does the child live with?

- With foster carers
- With family or friends (e.g. Grandparents or Aunt)
- In a residential home
- Somewhere else (if you can, please tell us where)  _____

How long has the child been in care?

- Less than one year
- 1-2 years
- 3-4 years
- 5 or more years
- I don't know

Please read this text to the child:

I am going to ask you 13 questions about your life since you have been in care and how you feel. These questions won't ask for your name and your answers won't be shown to your social worker or carers.

There are no right or wrong answers. These questions just ask for your thoughts.

Your answers will be put with the answers from other children who are also in care. All of these answers will allow the people looking after you to learn more about how to make life better for children in care.

I will help you to answer the questions, and you can ask me if there is anything you don't understand. I won't tell anyone what answers you give, unless you have told me that you or somebody you know has been hurt or is in danger. If that happens, I will speak to somebody else to get advice.

You don't have to answer any of the questions if you don't want to. That's OK too.

So let's get started. Can I ask you the first question? Here it is.



The home you live in

Do you feel safe in the home you live in?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do you feel settled in the home you live in? (Do you feel comfortable, accepted and at ease?)

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do you like your bedroom?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Being in care

Has someone explained why you are in care?

- Yes
- Not fully
- No

Do you know who your social worker is now?

- Yes
- I think so
- No

If you do know who your social worker is, do you trust your social worker?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do you trust your carers?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do your carers notice how you are feeling?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do you like school?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

At the weekends, do you get to have fun?

- Mostly yes
- Mostly no

Do you have a really good friend?

- Yes
- No



Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

How happy did you feel yesterday?



Very sad



Quite sad



OK



Quite happy



Very happy

Finally, is there anything you want to say or tell us about being in care? What would make being in care better for you?







Thank you both for helping us with this survey today.

We would be very grateful if you could tell the child who is with you that their feelings matter, and thank them again for their help.

What you can do if the child you are with is upset or worried by the questions in this survey

This survey is anonymous, and we cannot identify individual children from the answers given in the survey.

If the child you are with is upset or worried about anything they were asked in the survey you can encourage them or help them to **speak to their social worker**, or call Coram Voice on 0808 800 5792 or visit www.coramvoice.org.uk. This is a free and confidential helpline where you can talk to someone between 9.30am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. They can also call ChildLine on 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk. They have a free telephone service open 24 hours a day.

If you have safeguarding concerns, follow the safeguarding procedures within your local authority and inform the appropriate person. Let the child know that this is happening.