

Dear Carer,

Devon County Council are working with Coram Voice and the University of Bristol on Bright Spots, a programme which aims to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in care by identifying and promoting practices that have a positive influence on them.

Through the Bright Spots Programme we distribute a survey called 'Your Life, Your Care' with our looked after children aged 4-18. The 'Your Life, Your Care' survey asks children and young people questions about their social worker, carers, friends, things they get to do and their happiness. We will use the answers from all looked after children completing the survey to improve their well-being and care experience. The 'Your Life, Your Care' survey has already been successfully delivered in 16 other local authorities, who have identified important changes they can adopt following the results of the survey.

We want to improve children's experiences of care and are excited to work with Coram Voice on the survey. However, we are not involved in analysing the results of the survey and will not know which child has ticked what answer as all findings will be anonymised before they are passed to Devon County Council.

What will be involved?

- Your child (aged between 4 and 18) will be asked to complete the survey using a computer, tablet, smartphone or on paper;
- A trusted adult, usually a designated teacher, learning support worker or other professional will support your child to complete the survey, if needed;
- The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete;
- The survey is anonymous – we will not know which child has ticked which answers and the survey will not ask them for their name;
- The survey is not mandatory – your child will not have to complete the survey if they do not want to.

What will you do with any information shared in the survey?

- Completed surveys will be held by Coram Voice and stored securely;
- The answers from all looked after children will be used to produce a report. Your child's name will not be used in the report;
- The report will help us to improve the experiences of children in care and ensure they are supported throughout their care journey;
- A children's version of the report will be sent to all looked after children whether they completed the survey or not.

The survey will be administered in schools or other teams as necessary to reach all groups of children and young people. Children and young people will be asked to complete the online survey in a private space, using a computer, tablet, smartphone or on paper.

Although we are not asking foster carers to support their child to complete the survey – we would like you to encourage your child to complete the survey to share their views about their experiences of being in care. The information gathered will help to improve the work we do to support the children we look after.

You can find out more about the survey online at:
www.coramvoice.org.uk/brightspots

Kind regards,

Lance Feldman
Team Manager