



Children's Homes Charter Survey

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Introduction

This consultation was carried out to invite the views of children currently living in children's homes on proposals for a Children's Homes Charter.

Children in all children's homes in England were invited to give their views in an on-line survey. This asked them to say whether or not they thought each of the items listed in the first draft of the Charter should be included, and asked them if there was anything else they thought should be included.

Other formats of the survey were available on request. Paper versions and Widget symbol versions were requested and made available. Answers sent in by these other formats have been added in to the results.

The survey ran throughout January and in total we received **260 responses** from individual children.

All questions were optional and some young people chose not to answer some questions. The percentages given are as a percentage of the total number of young people answering each question.

All young people who took part were living in a children's home at the time. 241 told us how long they had lived in one or more children's homes. A third had lived in a children's home for less than a year. Sixteen percent had lived in children's homes for five years or more. The middle (median) length of time in children's homes was one year.

Of the 256 children who told us their gender, 66% were boys and 34% were girls. Of the 250 who answered a question about disability, 90 (36%) told us they had some form of disability.

253 told us their ethnic background. Of these, 80% said they were white, 9% that they were of a mixed background, 7% that they were Black, and 1% that they were Asian. Three percent said they were of 'other' backgrounds.

Children's views on the proposed Charter items

The results table below gives the children's 'votes' for or against including each of the items contained in the first draft of the Charter. The 'yes' column gives the number and percentage of children who agreed each item should be in the final Charter. The 'no' column gives the number and percentage who thought the item should not be kept in the final Charter. The items are listed in order of the support they were given by the children, with the one receiving most support at the top.

The items in the green shaded part of the list are the top ten items for the Charter according to the children's votes. Those in the amber shaded part are the items where more than one in ten of the children voted that the items should not make it to the final version of the Charter.

Results

Ideas	YES		NO		TOTAL	
	No of YP	%	No of YP	%	No of YP	%
Children should be able to make choices about things like the food they eat and the clothes they wear	257	99.23	2	0.77	259	100.00
Children should know how to make a complaint if they are unhappy about something	248	98.41	4	1.59	252	100.00
Children can make choices about their social lives and can take part in leisure activities and activities taking place locally	248	98.41	4	1.59	252	100.00
Children and young people are helped to move on in their lives towards independence. This includes things like learning to shop, cook, use washing machines and manage money	247	98.02	5	1.98	252	100.00
Children are helped to go to school, take part in out of school activities, do their homework and to do well at school	245	98.00	5	2.00	250	100.00
Children should be listened to and their wishes and feelings should make a difference to what happens in the children's home	252	97.67	6	2.33	258	100.00
Children should take responsibility for how they behave, in line with how old they are and their understanding	231	97.06	7	2.94	238	100.00
Children should be offered help from an independent advocate if they want one	230	96.64	8	3.36	238	100.00
Bullying is not acceptable Staff take fast action to protect children from bullying.	239	96.37	9	3.63	248	100.00
Children are helped to be healthy and can get professional help with health issues whenever they need it	237	96.34	9	3.66	246	100.00
Staff help children to get on with each other	242	95.65	11	4.35	253	100.00
Wherever possible children's homes help children's families to visit them at home, and help children to keep in touch with their parents and families	235	95.53	11	4.47	246	100.00
Staff respect children's privacy and keep information about them confidential, taking into account each child's age, needs and understanding	228	95.00	12	5.00	240	100.00
Every child should have the chance to make some choices for themselves, to take some risks and to learn from their mistakes	226	94.96	12	5.04	238	100.00
Staff are allowed to set reasonable limits to what children can do, taking into account each child's views and their behaviour	221	93.64	15	6.36	236	100.00
Rewards and punishments for how children behave are clear, reasonable, fair and are understood properly by all staff and children	234	93.60	16	6.40	250	100.00
Children's home staff tell social workers and the child's IRO when they think a child or young person is ready to move on from the children's home	205	90.31	22	9.69	227	100.00
All children and staff in the home treat each other with respect	211	89.03	26	10.97	237	100.00
Children can visit friends' homes and can have friends to visit them in the children's home, unless there is a good reason not to	215	88.84	27	11.16	242	100.00
Children respect each other's property and the property of the home and its staff	206	88.79	26	11.21	232	100.00
Children help the home to be seen as a good home by its neighbours	210	85.02	37	14.98	247	100.00

Other things the Charter should include

We asked children in children's homes if there was anything else they thought should go into the Children's Homes Charter.

A number of issues not already in the draft Charter were proposed more than once, although sometimes in different words or with different examples. These were:

1. Staff should keep children safe in children's homes, including from bullying and being assaulted.
2. Children's homes should do more to promote children's contact with their families, including their siblings.
3. Children should have more say in what happens in the home
4. Children should be allowed to have overnight stays in friends' houses without their parents needing to be police checked first.
5. Children in homes should have more freedoms, including going out alone.
6. Children should be allowed to play 18+ games.

Here is the complete list of additional things children thought should go into the Charter:

Other things the Charter should include

Is there anything else you think should go into the children's homes charter?

- young people should have a right to speak when there able to go see there friends and family
- you shouldn't have to hand your phones in at night by 10pm
- what would the yp's think if their team got change?
- We should be allowed a dog! And I will look after it and walk it and feed it!
- Should be allowed to sleep over friend's houses easier without checks being done.
- To make sure that no one can ever put you down and take the mick out your religion and beliefs.
- To have more money
- to get looked after
- To design a survey that is in PECS symbols and printable
- To be able to share a room one other young person if they yes. And no locked doors.
- To be able to play over 18 games.
- To be able to have friends sleep over at the children's home?
- This as been a very good survey
- they should be aloud to smoke
- There is no money and it's shit here!
- the government just cares about money

- THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A SAY ABOUT NEW RULES, FURNITURE OR CHANGES TO THE HOUSE AND YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A SAY ON WHAT GOES ON IN THE HOME
 - that if people behave if they can go abroad
 - that children should be given a chance to give there comments and ides
 - Tell staff to treats kids with respect and not to talk behind children's backs and do decent activities. Staff need to have commitment to kid's contact home and staff are very bad within this home
 - stop the stealing and bullying and make consequences 4 them
 - Staff to guide children when being influenced by peers to make the right choices.
 - Staff should not be allowed to go in our bedrooms without us there, and they should also not go though our phones either we r entitled to some privacy and my phone is a big part of it.
 - staff should always talk to each other before doing something
 - staff should be taking residents more seriously
 - Staff help as much an often as they can they keep us out of danger way.
 - Staff have to keep the child's life structure in order
 - Should get to visit their mum and dad
 - Should children have immediate access to his rights?
 - Police should be called for assaults and arrested. I would like to leave asap because I want to live with someone who likes batman and robin. On Saturdays choose between takeaways or home cooked. More bus travel and pocket money.
 - People with autism struggle with there behaviour. they need support and patience from staff or peers
 - My children home is a very good home and I am really lucky to be here. I live with 2 other young people and they help to make the attention etc equal and make sure that all our needs are met. They are fair and they understand how to talk to a
 - more of seeing my family
 - more love when you feel sad and down
 - Making sure that young people are fully supported once they have moved away from a children's home, and to ensure ongoing support until they are ready to live independently.
 - Later bedtimes, friends to visit?
-
- kids should get told when they are moving, what staff tell the social workers
 - keep them safe
 - My home is a wonderful caring house for kids that need help. Thank you
 - It's important to stay clean and healthy.
 - It would be nice to have a swimming pool on site
 - IT IS VERY GOOD WHERE I LIVE
 - it is better in a smaller home than a big home because there is a lot more people on the site
 - if you are happy living at the home
 - If parents are proven to be safe and sorted - it would be nice for children to go on short breaks, or mini holidays within our country
 - I would like to have 18 rated games and staff help me out more
 - I would like the staff to do less paperwork and spend more time with young people
 - I would like my home to have more fun stuff such as hot tubs and swimming pools and swings.
 - I would like contact with my family to be looked at more often.
 - I think you should be allowed freedom in children's home and always help children when they need it and when they tell somebody something personal it should be kept as a secret with friends.
 - I think there should be NO assaulting staff and young people in the home as it shouldn't be aloud in anyway possible. Also if there can be young people should be aloud to volunteer to be running charities and fun sales.
 - I think that when you live in a children's home it isn't like homely in many ways because of such tight rules and regulations which wouldn't be applicable in a home i.e.
 - I think that there should be a lot more opportunities for children in care not just for children in care homes.
 - I think that children should always have the opportunity to have any type of contact with there siblings
 - I think that children over 12 shod be able to make there own choices like if they want to go to town they shood
 - I recon that young children should have there own time to do what they like and they should not be in care for more than
 - I hope my questions will be read. Thank you very much I hope my say will be reached out further and you can understand the living of us young children. Goodbye

- I feel that young people should be given more money and the Social Workers should do what we need them to do for us, have more involvement, be more approachable and to visit us more often. Other than that the Care Home that I am living in is the best
 - I do not think our laptops should be taken away as a consequence and all consequences should be shared out fairly when in bad behaviour
 - I am the best young person to help with the children's charter.
 - I am happy with living in the children's home
 - I think that children should go out on their own at the age of 11
 - happy with my old friend names and new friend names greatness
 - clothing
 - Children's home to try to help the child or young person to gradually return back to the parents but still have the support they desperately need.
 - Children shouldn't have staff on their back 24/7!
 - Children should have more independence in their home like, the right to go out on their own.
 - Children in homes may not have the ability to communicate in understood ways.
 - Consideration given to children with challenging behaviours & high-healthcare needs. Increase the support & accommodation options available when a child is due to leave a home
 - Children in foster care get more freedom and I would like this to be extended to children in care homes too. (i.e. more unsupervised time). All young people should receive laptops to make it easier to keep in contact with family, friends and loved ones.
 - children and staff should respect the house rules by any means necessary
 - can we stay up later outside please
 - be allowed to buy toy cars
 - Are all children getting the right amount of pocket money.
 - All Children should be able to access the same fairness and treated the same. Children should keep in contact with their friends even when there living away from home.
 - 2 have more access
 - students should be encouraged to play in a team
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- Allow me to go on the computer to make a list from Argos or my birthday. My own camera to take pictures. A laptop
 - I want mini bus
 - I am non verbal and I signed 'Yes' to all the questions when my staff asked me the questions