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Please return this form to:
Angus Council Social Work
Freepost SCO7045
Forfar
DD8 3ZR.

Contact points

Community Assessment and Review Officers
Academy Lane
Arbroath
Phone: 01241 435665

You can contact social workers through the local Social Work offices.

Arbroath - 01241 878585
Brechin - 01356 624771
Carnoustie - 01241 859884
Forfar - 01307 462405
Kirriemuir - 01575 572958
Monifieth - 01382 534244
Montrose - 01674 672702

3694 Crystal Mark
Clarity approved by Plain English Campaign

You can get this leaflet in large print, in Braille or on cassette by contacting us on 01307 473194.

We can provide this information in other languages if you need it.

ACCESS Angus 08452 777 778
your direct line for council services

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

December 2001

Angus Council

Childcare reviews

A leaflet for children and young people

SOCIAL WORK

This is a leaflet to explain why we have these meetings, and how you can have your say.

Why?

By law we have to review care plans for children and young people, and your opinions and ideas are very important to us.

The purpose of the meeting is to look at your situation and draw up a plan. Hopefully, this plan is something you can help draw up and will give you a chance to have your say.

How?

We think it is very important for you to come to your reviews and tell us what your views and wishes are.

We know meetings can be difficult for young people to come to so we try to make them as easy as possible. We know some of the discussion can be about matters that you feel embarrassed, sad or angry about, or that make other people upset. We try to make sure the meetings are kept in control so we all know what the plan is and what is expected of each of us.

If you would like someone to speak on your behalf, or you would like to write something down for your meetings, that would be fine. To help you put your point of view across there is a form you can use if you want - ask your social worker for it.

If you would like someone to go with you for support, this may be okay too. However, it is best to check this with your social worker first (partly because people who go to the meeting need to be clear about matters like confidentiality and so on).

How long?

Usually the meetings last for just less than an hour. If people need a break or refreshment, we try to organise this.

How often and where?

Where possible we try to hold meetings at places that suit you - tell us where you would like a meeting and we will try to arrange this. A possible place would be your own home, where you are placed, a resource centre or a Social Work office and so on.

Who will be there?

Hopefully, you and your parents, carers and social worker. Other people may go for all or perhaps just part of the meeting, for example, your guidance teacher may come.

The Community Assessment and Review Officers will also come. Their job is to arrange and lead the meetings, see that the meetings are calm and sensible, and see that a clear plan is formed.

We try to keep the number of people at meetings small so you feel more able to put your point of view across.

When?

We can hold meetings at a time of day that suits you and the other people who are invited. We sometimes have them after school hours so you do not have to take time off. If you have a time that you would prefer, please tell your social worker or carer.

What you can expect from your review

You will have a care plan explaining what is going to happen and who will support you.

We will review this plan regularly. If you are living at home, we will hold the first review within three months of the date the local authority began to look after you (that is, your children's hearing date). After that, reviews will take place at least every six months and sometimes more often.

If you are living away from home (for example, in foster care), we will usually arrange a first review within three days of this happening. This is called a 'Reception into accommodation' meeting. We will arrange other meetings every four to six weeks, and then at least every six months after this (sometimes more often).

If you are living away from home in secure accommodation, we will hold reviews every month to make sure you are not in secure accommodation for a moment longer than necessary.

If you are living away from home, your childcare review will discuss any education or healthcare needs you have, as well as any offences you have committed.

We hope this leaflet has helped explain what reviews are about. We also hope that you will feel able to put your point of view across, either by telling us direct at the review, writing it down for the review or asking another person to say it for you.

If there are other things that you want to talk more about on reviews, you can speak to your social worker, carers, parents or contact us direct on 01241 435156.

Our aim is not only to meet our current standards but also to consider how we can improve them.

If you have any comments on the service you have received, or suggestions on how we can improve our standards, we would like to hear from you.

If you have a complaint about Social Work services, you can get a leaflet **What to do if you are not happy with services provided by Social Work** from any Social Work office.

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