This is what young people have said about having an Independent Visitor:



"It's fun because you look forward to going to different places, and you can talk to them if you have a problem, it is brilliant!"

"He's good fun..."

"We just talk and talk..."

"It's great because you get to go anywhere you like and they're really nice to you. You can talk to them and share things you don't want to talk to your carers about"

"She helps me get good marks at school"

"It's great, we do lots of stuff"



Want to find out more..?

Contact us or show this leaflet to your carer or social worker and ask them to contact us:

Email: IVCheshireEast@coramvoice.org.uk



What is an Independent Visitor ?

coramVoice
getting young voices heard

Do you want to get to know someone who is there just for you, who is not part of Children's Services? Someone who you would meet up with regularly and have fun and do stuff together?

If so read on...

Who can have an Independent Visitor?

Independent Visitors are for children and young people who are 'looked after' by the local authority who would like to have a friendship with an adult who is outside the care system.

Who are Independent Visitors?

Independent Visitors are just ordinary people. They are called 'Independent' because they are not social workers and are not part of Children's Services. They are not paid to be an Independent Visitor but do it because they enjoy the company of young people.



What sort of things would I do with my Independent Visitor?

Whatever you like doing. You and your Independent Visitor would decide together where you would like to go and what you would like to do. It could be playing or watching sport, shopping, going for walks, to the cinema or theatre, bowling, swimming, ice skating, cycling, flying a kite, chatting over a drink and snack, visiting museums, farms, zoos…. whatever you enjoy.

How often would I see my Independent Visitor?

Your Independent Visitor would visit you regularly, usually once a month at the weekend or evening or during the daytime in school holidays. Usually you would plan the time of your next visit together so that you would always know when you will be meeting up again.

Why have an Independent Visitor?

Independent Visitors are there to support you, listen to you and be your friend. They will only be your Independent Visitor not anyone else's. They will become someone who you know well and who knows you well because of the times that you share together. You can also ask your Independent Visitor to go with you to your reviews or other meeting to support you.



How do I get an Independent Visitor?

If you would like an Independent Visitor, ask your social worker to contact us. We will then come and meet with you to find out a bit about you and see if we have an Independent Visitor who we think you would like. You may have to wait some time, but once we have found one we will contact you and arrange to introduce you to them. After you have had a few visits together you can decide if you want to continue to see them.



Can I talk to my Independent Visitor confidentially?

Independent Visitors will not tell anyone things that you have told them that you want to keep to private. Although they would have to talk to someone if they are concerned that you or someone else may be in danger or at risk of harm. If they feel you have told them something like this they will usually tell you who they are going to talk to and why.



How long would I have an Independent Visitor for?

If you are in long term care you can keep your Independent Visitor until you are 18 if you wish to. After that you can remain friends for always but Coram Voice will no longer be involved. If you move placement or change social workers your Independent Visitor will not change but will continue to visit you unless you no longer want them to. It is your decision if you want to keep meeting up with your Independent Visitor.