

Children in Care Survey 2023 findings.

Context

The key purpose of the Children in Care Survey is to improve the life chances and achieve the best possible outcomes for children whom the City of Wolverhampton Council is their Corporate Parent.

Children and young people in care ages 5 to 16 years were asked to complete the annual Children in Care survey between 22nd August 2023 to 29th October 2023. The survey is produced with the Children in Care Council. The data was collated using a Microsoft Forms questionnaire. The information will continue to inform the priorities of the service and any areas for improvement.

Findings and Summary

76 children and young people, 25% of the children in care population (310) aged 5-16 within the city of Wolverhampton, completed the Children in Care Survey 2023.

In 2022, 32 young people children and young people completed the survey, a total of 9% of the possible children leaving in care population (349) aged 5-16 at the time. Therefore, we have seen an increase in response rate by 16%.

The responses reported from 2023 represent 25% of the total population and views of those children and young people who chose to respond to the survey. Therefore, the analysis of the collected data will be limited to the cohort who participated within the survey. In addition is to be noted that not all respondents answered all questions asked to them.

Since 2015, the Bright Spots Programme, and between 2015 and 2021, have collected over 10,000 voices of children in care through their “Your Life, Your Care” surveys. 36 local authorities (LAs) in England and six LAs in Wales used the Bright Spots surveys with their children and young people in care. On average the response rate was 35%, but it varied by LA (range 15%-84%) of their eligible children completing the surveys. Therefore, this year’s response rate for Wolverhampton’s CIC survey falls within expected national benchmarking standards.

Age

1. How old are you?

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● Between 5 - 10 years old	19
● Between 11 - 14 years old	20
● Between 15 - 16 years old	37



All respondents answered this question, the 15-16 age range accounted for 49% of all responses.

Where do you live?

2. Where do you live?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Residential- Children's home	3
Wolverhampton Foster Parent	53
Non Wolverhampton Foster Par...	11
With family members	9
With Parents	0



All respondents answered this question, 53 (70%) reported that they lived with a Wolverhampton Foster Parent. There was increase in the total number of responses this year where children reported they live foster parents; it can be suggested that the Fostering Services have promoted the survey more widely this year which may have led to this increase.

Only 4% (3 young people) reported they lived in a Children's Home compared to 16.1% (5 young people) in the previous year. This suggests the voices of children living in a Children's home are not being heard.

Do you think people treat you differently because you are in care?

3. Do you think people treat you differently because you are in care?

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[Insights](#)

Yes	8
No	34
Sometimes	22



Of the 76 participants, 64 responded to this question. 34 young people (53%) reported that they did not feel people treated them differently because they are in care, compared with 15 young people (48%) last year. This is an increase of 5% however given both sample sizes are small this suggests the amount of discrimination experienced remains relatively the same or has slightly improved.

Do you know what the advocacy service is?

4. Do you know what the advocacy service is?

(A person who speaks on your behalf when you need them to. The Childrens Society Advocates)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes 49
● No 27



Of the 76 recipients all respondents answered this question, 49 young people (64%) stated they were aware of the advocacy service an increase of 9% from last year.

Do you know how to speak to an advocate?

5. Do you know how to speak to an advocate?

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[Insights](#)

● Yes 39
● No 37



Following on from feedback received from last years survey, a supplementary question to better understand young people's knowledge of how to access an advocate was added to this year's survey.

All respondents answered this question, a near 50/50 split between those who knew and did not know how to access an advocate. This could suggest that while young people are aware of the advocates existence how to access one is not always made clear.

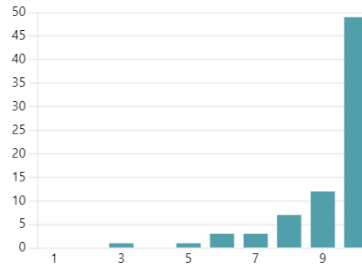
Out of 10, how do you rate your relationships with adults who care for you (in your home)?

6. Out of 10, how would you rate your relationship with the adults who care for you (in your home)?

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[Insights](#)

9.22
Average Rating



On average, respondents rated the adult who cares for them in their home as a 9.22/10, an increase of 0.29 on last years responses. 68 young people (90%) rated their relationship with someone who cares for them at home 8/10 or higher an increase of 2% from last year.

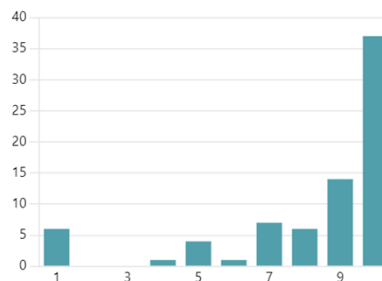
Out of 10, how would you rate your relationship with your Social Worker?

7. Out of 10, how would you rate your relationship with your Social Worker?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

8.28
Average Rating



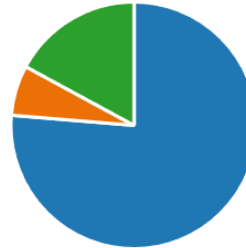
On average, respondents rated their relationship with their social worker as 8.28/10 a slight decrease from 8.70 on last year. 57 young people (75%) reported that they rated their relationship with their social worker 8/10 or above.

Have you been supported to keep in contact with your friends and/or family?

8. Have you been supported to keep in contact with your friends and/or family?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	58
● No	5
● Sometimes	13



58 young people (76%) reported they had been supported to keep in contact with friends and family who are important to them. A decrease of 5% on last year however given both sample sizes are small this suggests this remains relatively the same or has slightly decreased.

How does your school support you?

9. How does your school support you?

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[Insights](#)

76

Responses

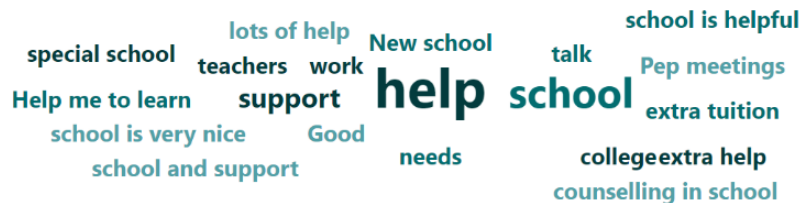
Latest Responses

"They help me with my school work they give me extra support in lessons."

"I'm at a new school"

"I don't actually know"

18 respondents (24%) answered **help** for this question.



Following feedback from the Virtual School this supplementary question was added for this year. All respondents answered this question, a total of 48% reported positive support from their schools and teachers. 18 young people (24%) that they felt their school “helped them” to learn and supported them. In addition, seven young people (9%) reported they had additional support with tuition for specific subjects such as Maths and English, and 11 young people (15%) reported they were provided with additional mental health support. However, 13 young people (17%) said they were unsure what support they were provided or did not receive any extra support. The remaining 35% of answers were unclear and were unable to be categorised.

Out of 10, how would you rate your relationship with your IRO?

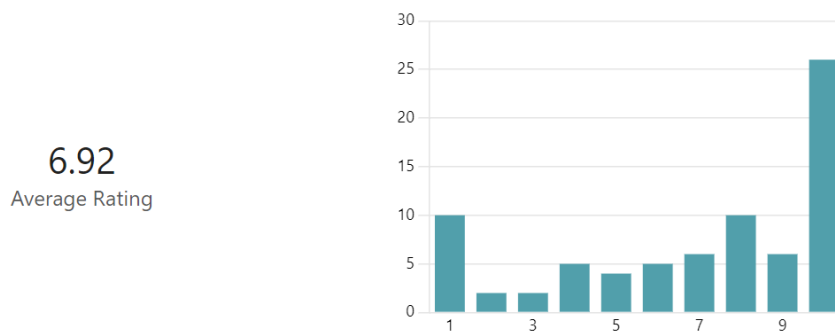
On average young people reported their relationship with their IRO as 6.92/10, down 0.36 from last year.

Of the respondents 42 young people (55%) reported their relationship with their IRO as 8/10 or above. The majority of young people report a good relationship with their IRO however there are a significant group that report lower satisfaction rates with their IRO and the average rating of 6.92 is lower than we would like and has decreased since last year.

10. Out of 10 how would you rate your relationship with your IRO? (Independant Reviewing Officer)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)



Do you feel supported with your Education by...

11. Do you feel supported with your Education by...

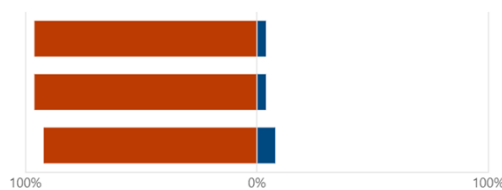
[More Details](#)

■ Yes ■ No

Your Social Worker

Adults that care for you

Your School

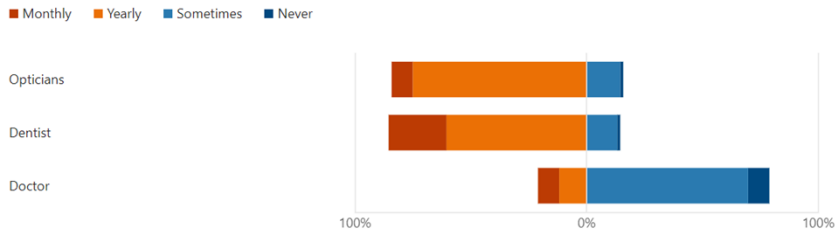


73 respondents answered this question, 96.1% reported they felt positively supported in their education by their social worker. 96.1% of young people felt supported by adults who care for them, an increase of 2.6%. Alongside this 92.1% reported they felt supported by their school, an increase of 2.1% on last year.

How often do you attend the following...

12. How often do you attend the following...

[More Details](#)



At the request of Children in Care Council the following question was added to this year's survey regarding health appointments. Of 76 respondents, 57 young people (75%) attended the opticians yearly and 1 person (1.3%) reporting they had never seen an optician.

19 young people (25%) reported they visited the dentist monthly, 46 young people (60.5%) attending yearly, and only 1 person (1.3%) reporting they had never seen a dentist.

Of 76 respondents, 53 young people (69.7%) reported they visited the doctor sometimes and 7 young people (9.2%) reporting they had never seen a doctor.

Do you attend your PEP meetings?

13. Do you attend your Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings?

[More Details](#)

Yes	21
No	24
Sometimes	31



Out of the 76 respondents, 21 young people (28%) reported they always attend their PEP reviews, a decrease of 12% on last year. A further 31 young people (41%) stated they sometimes attended their PEP meetings, an increase of 8% on last year.

Do you find your PEP helpful in supporting your education?

14. Do you find your PEP helpful in supporting your education?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

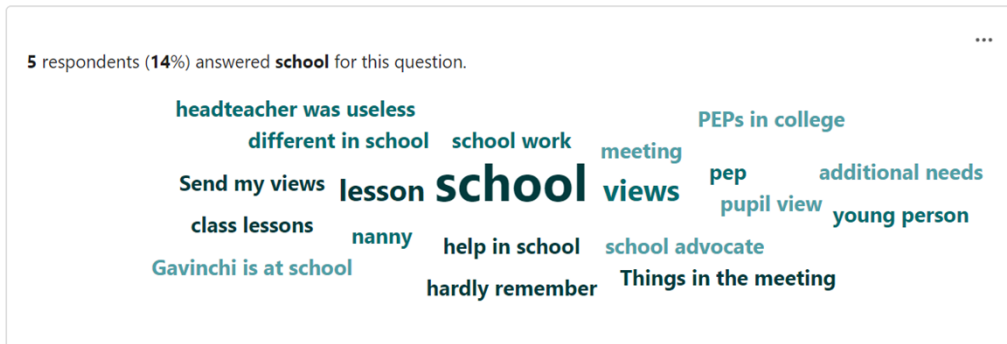
Yes	28
No	6
Sometimes	18



Following feedback from Children in Care Council and Virtual School this question was added as a supplementary question to give further information.

Of the 76 respondents, 52 responded to this question. 28 young people (54%) reported that they felt the PEP was useful in supporting their education, with a further 18 (35%) stating it was sometimes useful with only 6 (12%) reported they did not find the PEP process useful.

If not, why not?



36 respondents chose to answer this question, of those 6 young people (17%) reported they did not want to be singled out and taken from lessons to take part in their PEP meeting.

Do you attend your Child in Care Review?

16. Do you attend your Children in Care Review?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	31
● No	24
● Sometimes	21



All respondents answered this question. 31 young people (41%) said they do attend their child in care reviews, an increase of 4% on last year with 24 young people (32%) reported they are not attending at all, a decrease of 1%.

If not, why not?



32 responded to this question.

Of these seven young people (22%) young people said they felt the reviews were too long, five young people (16%) felt the reviews were boring and five young people (16%) also added they felt too shy or the reviews had too many adults involved so they would not like to attend.

An additional 12 young people (38%) young people simply reported they did not want to attend, without further details provided as to why.

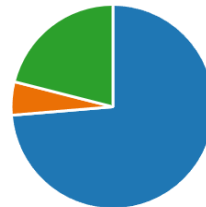
Are you involved and comfortable with how your child in care reviews are done?

18. Are you involved and comfortable with how your child in care reviews are done?

[More Details](#)

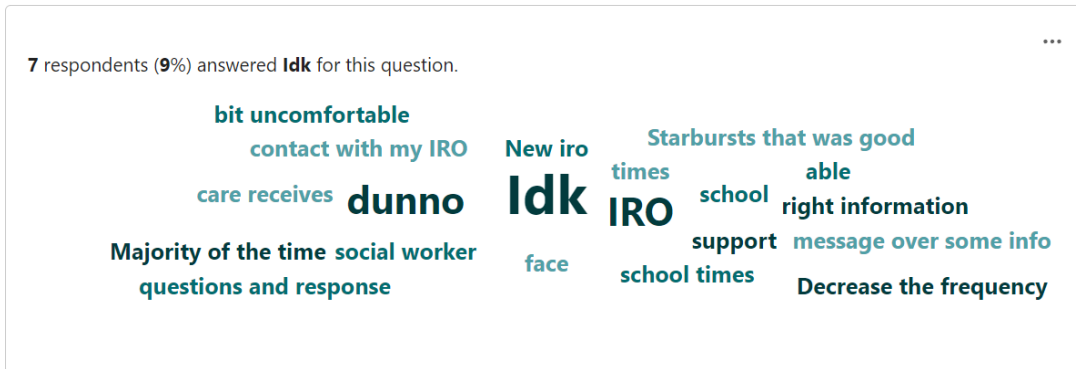
[Insights](#)

● Yes	56
● No	4
● Sometimes	16



All respondents answered this question, 56 young people (74%) reported they were comfortable with how their child in care reviews are conducted, a decrease of 4% on last year. four young people (5%) reported they were not happy with how their reviews were conducted, a slight increase of 1% on last year. Overall, this has remained consistent.

How could your child in care reviews be improved?



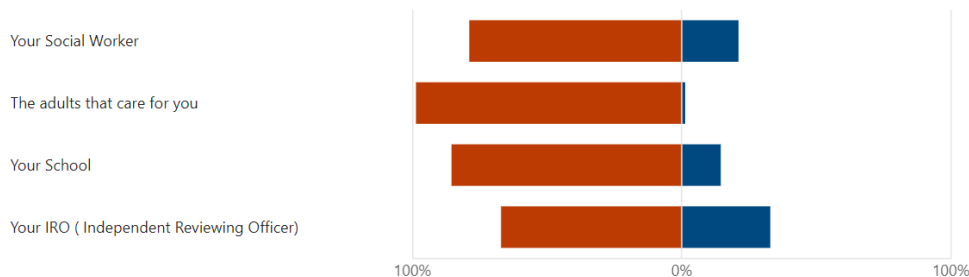
45% of young people reported they didn't know or were unsure as to how to prove the reviews. However, some young people did provide some specific feedback on how reviews could be improved with 3 young people (4%) reported they would like reviews to take place outside of school or outside of school times, 3 young people (4%) asked for more contact with IRO, and a further 3 young people (4%) reported reviews could be confusing and mainly social worker led.

Do you feel supported in your hobbies by...

20. Do you feel supported to do your Hobbies by...

[More Details](#)

■ Yes ■ No



A total of 60 young people (78.9%) reported they felt supported by their Social Worker to complete their hobbies, a decrease of 11.4% on last year.

A further 98.7% of young people reported the adults who care for them at their home support their hobbies and interests an increase of 5.2% on last year.

An additional 85.5% of respondents reported they were supported by their school and increase of 11.3% on last year.

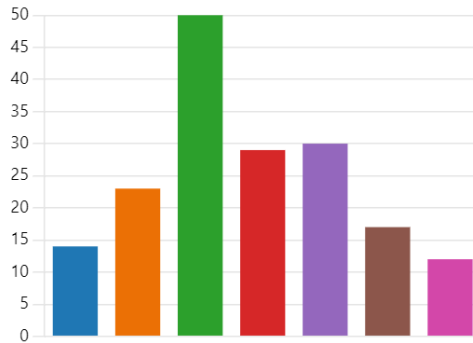
61.7% young people reported they also felt supported by their IRO, a decrease of 15.7% on last year.

What social media platform do you use?

21. Which social media platforms do you use?

[More Details](#)

Facebook	14
Instagram	23
Youtube	50
TikTok	29
Snapchat	30
None	17
Other	12



Following feedback from Corporate Parenting Board this was a supplementary question added to this year's survey and as such has no comparative data from previous years. Respondents were able to select more than one option for their answer.

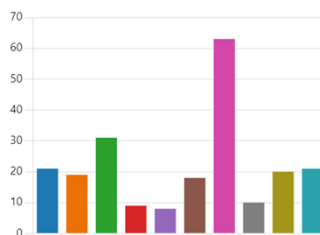
Of the social media platforms listed, 50 young people stated they used YouTube as their regular social media platform of choice. A further 30 used Snapchat with 29 using TikTok.

In the last 12 months I have been to...

22. In the last 12 months I have been to:

[More Details](#)

The Library	21
Art Gallery	19
Theatre (Shows / Panto / Musica...	31
Concert	9
Dance Show	8
Museum	18
Cinema	63
Circus	10
A Professional Sports Match	20
Other	21



Following feedback from Virtual School this was a supplementary question added to this year's survey and as such has no comparative data from previous years. Respondents were also able to select more than one option for their answer.

Of the enrichment activities listed, 63 young people had visited the cinema in the last 12 months, making this the most accessed, followed by attendance at the theatre of 31 young people.

Would you like a newsletter to be sent directly to you to let you know what's happening in your world and the opportunities open to you?

24. Would you like a newsletter to be sent directly to you to let you know what's happening in your world and the opportunities open to you? (E.g - Activities, services, projects etc.)

[More Details](#)

- Yes please 38
- No thanks 38



Following feedback from Children in Care Council this question was added for this year and as such has no comparable data.

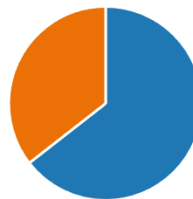
Are you aware of the children in care council?

25. Are you aware of the Children In Care Council?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

- Yes 49
- No 27



Following feedback from Children in Care Council this question was amended and added for this year and as such has no comparable data. Of those 76 respondents a total of 49 (64%) reported they were aware of the Children in Care Council.

Are you aware of the Participation Team who support the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum?

26. Are you aware of the Participation Team who support the Children In Care Council & Care Leavers Forum? (City of Wolverhampton Council)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

- Yes 25
- No 51



Following feedback from Children in Care Council and CYPIC Managers this question was amended and added for this year and as such has no comparable data. Of those 76 respondents a total of 51 (67%) reported they were not aware of the Participation Team.

Strengths	Areas for development	Recommendations
<p>76 children and young people, 25% of the children in care population (310) aged 5-16 within the city of Wolverhampton, completed the Children in Care Survey 2023. An increase in response rate by 16% from 2022.</p> <p>64% stated they were aware of the advocacy service.</p> <p>90% rated their relationship with someone who cares for them at home 8/10 or higher.</p> <p>75% reported their relationship with their social worker 8/10 or above.</p> <p>The majority of young people attend their reviews and 74% reported they were comfortable with how their child in care reviews are conducted. 55% reported their relationship with their IRO as 8/10 or above.</p> <p>Over 92% reported feeling supported with their education by their social worker, adult who cares for them, and their school</p> <p>69% reported attending their PEPs all of the time or sometimes with 87% finding this a useful process.</p> <p>The majority of young people reported feeling supported with their hobbies by the adult who cares for them and their school.</p> <p>Young people are accessing a range of enrichment activities and 53% did not</p>	<p>Only 4% (3 young people) reported they lived in a Children's Home compared to 16.1% (5 young people) in the previous year. This suggests the voices of children living in a Children's home are not being heard.</p> <p>53% young people reported that they did not feel people treated them differently because they are in care, compared with 15 young people (48%) last year.</p> <p>On average young people reported their relationship with their IRO as 6.92/10, down 0.36 from last year.</p> <p>Young people felt less supported by their SW (a decrease of 11.4%) and IRO (a decrease of 15.7%) with their hobbies this year compared to last year.</p>	<p>Continue to strive for increase in response rates; target for next years is 35% (the average from national benchmarking). Including how we can use YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok which are our CIC preferred social media platforms.</p> <p>Increase the number of children living in children's homes responding to the survey.</p> <p>Continue to promote positive achievement of CYPIC and develop a process to ensure any discrimination is reported and challenged.</p> <p>Further work is required to understand why on average young people reported their relationship with their IRO is rated lower than last year.</p> <p>Some questions did not provide any additional insight into the lives of CYPIC and some questions did. It is important those that didn't are removed to ensure the survey is concise for children to be willing to complete it and those that are useful are repeated and are used for comparative purposes.</p>

<p>want to be offered anymore activities feeling satisfied with their current level (or suggesting currently this was already high).</p> <p>64% reported they were aware of the Children in Care Council.</p>		
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