



Overview of The 'Independent Review of Children Social Care'

For CYP Social Care & Services Scrutiny Panel

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Purpose of the Review

Independently led by
Josh MacAlister'

The government manifesto committed to review the children's social care system to make sure children and young people get the support they need.

The review will also consider **how the children's social care system responds to all children who are referred to the system**. It will address major challenges, including the **sharp increase in recent years in the number of looked after children**, high and rising unit costs, the **inconsistencies in children's social care practice and outcomes** across the country, and the failure of the system to provide sufficient stable loving homes for children.

The review should consider the capacity and capability of the system to support and strengthen families in order to prevent children being taken into care unnecessarily.



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Scope of the Review



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Starting from children's experience – how does the provision of service influence a child's experiences and outcomes later?

It will prioritize hearing voices of children, young people, and adults that have received the help or support of a Social Worker, or who have been looked after

All children who are referred to or involved with stat social care – a review of the whole system, including relevant preventative services (early Help)

All children in care in both formal and informal (kinship) placements it may also consider those leaving or preparing to leave care/adoption SEND review

Children's social care and interaction with partner agencies – it will review and investigate how those services' roles, responsibilities and accountabilities interact with CSC and recommend improvements for working together

The review must be workable, leading to deliverable reforms that are evidence based and demonstrate a measurable impact.

Review's themes and questions

- ★ **Support:** what support is needed to meet the needs of children who are referred to or involved with social care, in order to improve outcomes and make a long-term positive difference to individuals and to society?
- ★ **Strengthening families:** what can be done so that children are supported to stay safely and thrive with their families, to ensure the exceptional powers that are granted to the state to support and intervene in families are consistently used responsibly, balancing the need to protect children with the right to family life, avoiding the need to enter care?
- ★ **Safety:** what can be done so that children who need to be in care get there quickly, and to ensure those children feel safe and are not at risk of significant harm?
- ★ **Care:** what is needed for children to have a positive experience of care that prioritises stability, providing an alternative long-term family for children who need it and support for others to return home safely?
- ★ **Delivery:** what are the key enablers to implement the review and raise standards across England, such as a strong, stable and resilient workforce, system leadership and partnerships, and what is needed so that this change can be delivered?
- ★ **Sustainability:** what is the most sustainable and cost-effective way of delivering services, including high-cost services, who is best placed to deliver them, and how could this be improved so that they are fit for the future?
- ★ **Accountability:** what accountability arrangements are necessary to ensure that the state can act appropriately, balancing the need to protect and promote the welfare of children with the importance of parental responsibility, and what is needed to ensure proper oversight of how local areas discharge those responsibilities consistently?

“How we can ensure that children grow up in loving, safe and stable families, and where that is not possible that care provides the same foundations”

Getting Involved

- **Call for advice**

There has been over 750 responses to the Call for Advice so far. There is a commitment to reading every response, and responses are still welcome! [Submit advice and evidence - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(independent-review.uk\)](https://www.independent-review.uk).

- **Call for evidence**

There is now a Call for Evidence to supplement the Call for Advice – again, every document submitted will be considered. If you want to know more, click [here \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com). There has been 200 responses so far covering topics such as outcomes for children, practice models, kinship care, fostering, poverty and adoption.



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Experience

Experts by Experience Board is in place and meeting regularly

2 advisory groups will bring together experience from professionals in children's social care, politicians from different political backgrounds and researchers

Evidence & Design

Evidence Group

A group made up of academics and other experts in the field.

What Works Centre will support the review by producing and commissioning evidence summaries, rapid reviews and new analysis.

Design Group

Range of professionals across local government, policing, the judiciary, health, education and other areas.

All of this evidence will contribute to the case for change (early Summer)



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keeping up to date

[Events - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(independent-review.uk\)](#)

If you want to sign up for regular updates on the review, click [here \(office.com\)](#)



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