



What do young people do with their Independent Visitor?

- Go to a cafe
- Walk the dog
- Play sport
- Fly a kite
- Have a game of pool
- Share interests
- Visit somewhere new
- Try something new
- Just have a chat

What young people think about their Independent Visitors...

- “She’s always there for me.”
- “She’s kind, friendly and a great listener. She can cheer me up any time.”
- “You can talk about private things and life...it’s like having an adult who’s a friend!”
- “If you need advice he’ll talk and listen to you, and if you can’t do something he will help you.”
- “She’s nice, friendly and she helps me out with my problems, I’d never swap her!”
- “My IV is very talkative, enjoys being outside and is sporty.”

If you would like to know more about the IV scheme, please contact:

Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme,
Wiltshire Council Conference and Reviewing
Service, County Hall, Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Phone: 01225 713934 or 01225 713961
Email: IVScheme@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Independent Visitor (IV) Scheme



Information for parents



What is the scheme all about?

If your child is 'looked after' by the local authority and living away from home they may like to be linked up with an IV.

Although young people in care may have lots of adults working with them, they often like to have someone from outside the system taking an interest in their lives. Independent Visitors are just ordinary people volunteering their time to a young person who has asked for this support. Their role is to be young person centred and independent from other social care professionals.

Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme is run at arm's length from children's social work teams and is based within the conference and reviewing service at Wiltshire Council. All Independent Visitors are carefully checked and trained, to make sure young people will be safe and well looked after when they are with them.



What are IVs like?

They are all volunteers, who understand and get on with young people. They are all different to each other, which means we can try and match your child up with the right person for them.

Who can have one?

The laws says that any young person who is living in care can have an IV if it is in their best interests. Your child doesn't have to have an IV if they don't want one.

What can my child expect from their IV?

An ordinary person, who is not a social worker, counsellor or other professional. An IV is someone who will visit your child regularly for as long as they are in care. They will listen and chat to them as well as having some fun time out from where they are living.

Would I get to meet my child's IV?

We would not automatically introduce you to your child's IV, unless you have asked us to meet them. Please tell your child's social worker if you would like this to happen. You may get to meet your child's IV at a review meeting, if your child has asked their IV to come along.

Where would they meet?

They will probably be introduced to each other for the first time in their foster home or residential home. After that they will decide together where and when they would like to meet together.

How often would they meet?

Probably about once every three or four weeks, but it may be more or less often. Meetings usually last for a few hours, depending on what activity has been planned. They would be arranged to fit in with existing routines.

Will they talk to anyone about what my child says?

IVs will keep what your child tells them confidential, although they have a duty to make sure young people are safe. This means they would have to pass on information if a young person was being harmed in some way, or if their health or safety was at serious risk.

What if my child moves somewhere else?

We hope that their IV will be able to visit or keep in touch with them wherever they are, even after they have left care.