

Some of the things you might do with your IV...

- 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.

... you can always suggest others too.



What young people say about their IVs

“She’s a good listener, and gives out good advice. She’s also funny and helpful.”

“You get to do different things you never knew about.”

“He’s kind, friendly; he listens to me; we have fun, have a giggle.”

“You have the best time ever and if you have problems you can tell them.”

“It’s lovely to have someone ‘normal’ talk to you outside of the system.”

“If someone was thinking about having a visitor I would tell them to get one.”

If you would like to know more about the Independent Visitor Scheme, please contact:

The 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 Scheme

Information for young people



What is an independent visitor?

If you are a young person who is in the care system, you might like to have an 'Independent Visitor' (IV).

IVs are all volunteers and not part of Social Services. They are just ordinary people who have offered their time to be an adult friend to you throughout the time you are in care.

If you would like to have an IV, we will try and match you with the sort of person you think you will get on with best. The person you are matched up with will be there just for you, and will not be asked to visit any other young person. They will meet up with you regularly, spending time with you doing something you both enjoy. They are some-one you can talk to if you have any worries or problems.

All our IVs are chosen carefully to make sure they are fun to be with, and also that you will feel comfortable and safe when you are meet with them. Your IV can carry on meet-ing you until you are 21, if that is what you want.

Other young people tell us they really like having an IV... we hope you will too!



What are Independent Visitors (IVs) like?

They are all volunteers, who understand and get on with young people. They are all different to each other, which means you can tell us the sort of person you would like to be linked up with, and we can try and find the right person for you.

Who can have one?

The laws says that any young person who is living in care can have an Independent Visitor if it is in their best interests. However you do not have to have one unless you want to.

What can I expect from a visitor?

Someone who is interested in **you**, will visit you regularly, listen and chat to you about stuff. They will also help with advice if you want them to. All our IVs are checked and trained, to make sure you will be safe when you are with them.

Where would we meet?

You will probably be introduced to your visitor for the first time in your foster home or residential home. After that you will decide together where and when you would like to meet together, to fit in with any routines where you are living.

How often would we meet?

Probably about once every three or four weeks, but it may be more or less often, depending on what you agree together. 'Visits' usually last for a few hours, depending on what you have decided to do .

Will they talk to anyone about me?

IVs don't give information about you to other people without your permission, and they don't write reports about you. They do have a duty to keep you safe, so there are some things they would have to pass on, for instance if you or somebody else was being harmed in some way.

What if we don't get on?

We will always try and link you up with the right person for you. But if things don't work out, you just need to let us know, so it can be sorted!

What if I move somewhere else?

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

