HOW MUCH CONTACT WILL THERE BE BETWEEN THE YOUNG PERSON AND THEIR VISITOR?

Most Independent Visitors will have contact with their young person once a month on a flexible basis, this could be for a few hours or a special day out. Keeping in touch with your young person between visits through phone calls, letters, postcards and in other ways is encouraged.

You can be an Independent Visitor for as long as you and the child / young person are happy to keep visiting each other. This might be for a short time or for many years.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

To find out more about becoming an Independent Visitor contact us.

FosteringLeicestershire**.com**

0116 305 0505

independentvisitors@leics.gov.uk

@fosteringleicestershire

T0132 Sept 2019

INDEPENDENT VISITORS SCHEME

HELPING CHILDREN IN CARE

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire **Fostering** & **Adoption**

WHAT IS THE INDEPENDENT VISITORS SCHEME?

For some children in care, the majority of the adults in their lives are social workers, foster carers and other professionals. Therefore, many children and young people in care benefit greatly from having an adult in their lives, with whom they can spend regular time whilst creating a valuable and consistent friendship.

WHO ARE INDEPENDENT VISITORS?

Independent Visitors are volunteers aged 18 and over, who are carefully checked, trained and approved. Every attempt is made to take account of the young person's views and wishes in order to provide an appropriate match.

Independent Visitors can offer a young person support, advice and encouragement during their time in care and often beyond this time.

WHAT OUR CHILDREN SAY;

"I enjoy going out with my Independent Visitor. She has taken me to some lovely places."

"My Independent Visitor listens to what I have to say"

"She is consistent in my life amongst lots of other changes"

WHAT INDEPENDENT VISITORS SAY;

"I love that I can build a meaningful, friendly relationship, and feel like I'm making a difference

"I love making her laugh and she makes me laugh too!!"

"It feels good to make a difference to someone else"

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

No formal qualifications are required, although potential volunteers should:

- Be able to listen to, communicate with and enjoy the company of young people
- Be open-minded and non-judgemental
- Have patience, flexibility (and a sense of humour!)
- Be committed, reliable and able to work within the scheme guidelines.

All volunteers recruited are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and other checks.

As an Independent Visitor you will receive ongoing training, support and advice from the Independent Visitor Co-ordinator.

Independent Visitors are volunteers and are not paid for the time they spend with their child or young person, but they can reclaim agreed expenses.