

## VIEWPOINT REPORT

### April 2008 – September 2008

In the time period April 2008 to September 2008, 261 looked after children aged 5-17 gave their views to their reviews through Viewpoint, using an age-appropriate questionnaire. This report presents the views of these young people, according to the ECM five outcome categories. Although differences are observed throughout the report, these should be viewed with caution as the number of responses is low for some groups and the results could have occurred by chance. Percentages are also given for consistency of presentation. However, these should also be viewed with caution as they are based on a low number of responses for some groups.

The sample sizes for the 10 –14 and 5 – 9 age groups are substantial, 130 out of 216 10 – 14s (62%) and 101 out of 180 5 – 9s (56%).

For the 15+ questionnaire, most of the young people were aged 15 or 16, as older young people tend to prefer to fill in a shorter paper questionnaire.

The results for 24 questionnaires have *not* been included in this report, as they were cases where the same young person had used Viewpoint more than once in the time period. Where a young person has completed the questionnaire more than once in the time period, only their most recent answers are included.

The report will also separately comment on the results for 9 young people who completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7 (one young person), 7-9 (six young people) and 10-14 (two young people).

The characteristics of the young people who are included in this report are outlined below:

	No of respondents	% of overall respondents
<b>Age Group</b>		
<b>5-7</b>	55	21%
<b>7-9</b>	46	18%
<b>10-14</b>	130	50%
<b>15+</b>	30	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>Female</b>	136	52%
<b>Male</b>	125	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
<b>White or White British</b>	248	95%
<b>Mixed Background</b>	5	1.5%
<b>Asian/Asian British</b>	4	1.5%
<b>Black/Black British</b>	2	1%
<b>Other background</b>	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>100%</b>

Throughout the period of Viewpoint use, the response rate from children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups has been consistently low (previously only 6% of responses and in this period only 5% of responses,. Although Black and Minority Ethnic children and young people comprise approximately 14% of looked

after children), these figures include the high proportion (40%) of the 16+ group, and a few of this age group are represented in this study. The response rate is still lower than the 9 % of minority ethnic looked after children who are under 16.

**A previous action point was to review computer access for LAC children from ethnic minorities, including asylum seekers and those in out of county foster care, in order to address the underlying issues thought to be responsible for the under-representation of this group of young people. However, in the period April 2008 to September 2008 this proportion is even lower than previous periods, at 5%.**

## The Five Outcomes

### 1a. Keeping Healthy: Physical Health

#### Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
90% think they are healthy	<b>No difference</b>	<b>89%</b>	5-7
88% definitely have someone to talk to about health	<b>No difference</b>	<b>85%</b>	5-7
83% think they are healthy	<b>More positive</b>	<b>93%</b>	7-9
83% have no health concerns	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>78%</b>	10-14
76% definitely have someone to talk to about health	<b>More positive</b>	<b>82%</b>	10-14
51% have / know about health plan	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>49%</b>	10-14
79% have no health concerns	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>62%</b>	15+
75% could definitely talk to SW about problems	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>55%</b>	15+
79% get the health information / advice they need	<b>More positive</b>	<b>83%</b>	15+
71% have had health assessment in last 12 months	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>59%</b>	15+
96% are registered with a doctor	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>86%</b>	15+
87% are registered with a dentist	<b>No difference</b>	<b>86%</b>	15+

#### Previous Action Points:

- **Improve dentist registration and health planning, including family medical history.**
- **Information on healthy eating / weight issues.**
- **Ensure health issues are included in Pathway Planning.**

#### Physical Health

- All age groups were very positive in the way they perceived their physical health. The majority of the two younger age groups gave the most positive answer for thinking they were healthy (49 of 55 in the 5-7 group; 43 of 46 in the 7-9 group), with the 7-9s in particular giving more positive responses, compared to the group responding in the previous time period. Across both age groups, no children said they thought they were *not* healthy. The two older age groups were similarly positive, with 97 of 125 young people in the 10-14 group and 7 of 29 young people in the 15+ group saying they had concerns about their health, although the responses were less positive compared to the group responding in the previous time period. The most common concerns related to weight, size, smoking and specific health issues.
- As is also suggested by young people's comments about their leisure activities, the 10-14 group frequently engage in exercise or physical activity, with 106 of 124 saying they did sport or exercise twice times a week, or more often (86%). Six young people said 'hardly at all' or 'not at all'. These findings are similar to those for the group responding in the previous time period.
- **Just over half** of the 10-14 age group (63 of 124) either did not have a health plan or did not know what it was. This proportion shows no change from the previous 6-month time period.

- **Most children and young people said they had someone to talk to about their health.** Of the two younger age groups, 47 of 55 5-7 year olds said they definitely had someone to talk to, with 1 child in these age groups saying they did not. The 10-14 group had more positive responses, compared to the group responding in the previous time period. Over three-quarters of 10-14s said they definitely had someone they could talk to about their health, although 11 of 124 young people in this group said they didn't have anyone to talk to ('no' or 'not really'). In the 15+ group, around half said they could talk to their Social Worker about their health or other concerns (16 of 29), **with three young people in this group said they could not.** However, most of the 15+ group said they got the advice they needed about how to be healthy (24 of 29). The 15+ group gave less positive responses about speaking to their social workers, but more positive responses about health advice in general, compared to the previous 6 months.
- **Over a third of the 15+ group either had not or were not sure whether they had had a health assessment (12 of 29).** Four young people were not or did not know if they were registered with a doctor and four were not or did not know if they were registered with a dentist.
- Two-thirds or more of the 15+ age group said they had talked about drugs, alcohol, smoking, healthy diet and exercise (21 or more of 30). A separate question about safe sex, relationships etc revealed that this was less well discussed. **Although around two-thirds of the group said they had talked about safe sex and relationships (20/19 of 30), this fell to under a third for parenting and marriage, and only a tenth for family medical history (6 of 27).** Six young people thought that none of these issues had ever been discussed with them and two (of 30) young people thought that none of the issues around drugs, alcohol, smoking, diet or exercise had ever been discussed with them. These trends have also been the same in previous time periods.

#### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. These young people were largely positive about aspects of physical health, with most saying they thought they were healthy (5 of 7, with the remaining two saying 'most of the time').

## 1b. Keeping Healthy: Mental/Emotional Health

### Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
83% definitely happy at placement	<b>More positive</b>	<b>95%</b>	5-7
79% definitely sleep well	<b>More positive</b>	<b>84%</b>	5-7
80% definitely feel okay at placement	<b>More positive</b>	<b>87%</b>	7-9
61% definitely sleep well	<b>More positive</b>	<b>70%</b>	7-9
84% definitely feel settled at placement	<b>No difference</b>	<b>82%</b>	10-14
59% have no problems sleeping	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>56%</b>	10-14

### Previous Action Points:

- **Improve dentist registration and health planning, including family medical history.**
  - **Information on healthy eating / weight issues.**
  - **Ensure health issues are included in Pathway Planning.**
- The majority of children and young people in all age groups gave the most positive responses for feeling 'happy', 'settled' or 'okay' at their placement. Children in the younger age groups in particular gave more positive responses, compared to the group responding in the previous time period.
  - **Children were more positive about sleeping well, with most saying they definitely slept well (45 of 55 5-7s and 32 of 46 7-9s).** Three children in the 5-7 group and no children in the 7-9 group said they did *not* sleep well. Just over half of the 10-14s said they had no problems with sleeping, with 5 saying 'always' and 14 saying 'most of the time' (of 125).
  - As was also found in previous time periods, two-thirds or more of the 5-7s and 7-9s said they 'always' felt happy (37 of 55 5-7s and 34 of 46 7-9s), with all of the other children saying 'sometimes'.
  - Around a quarter of the 10-14s said they felt angry or frustrated 'all of the time' or 'most of the time' (34 of 127), **with more females than males saying they felt angry or frustrated 'most of the time'**. Reasons given for feeling angry or frustrated included being picked on or teased, not feeling listened to, being in care, getting wound up or getting into trouble.

### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. These young people were largely positive about aspects of mental / emotional health, with all of the young people saying they felt happy / okay / settled where they lived (9 of 9) and most saying they 'always' slept well or had no problems sleeping (6 of 8).

## 2a. Staying Safe: Bullying and Placement Issues

### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
90% definitely feel safe at placement	<b>More positive</b>	<b>95%</b>	5-7
81% definitely find it easy to talk to their carer	<b>More positive</b>	<b>85%</b>	5-7
98% say their carer helps them	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>91%</b>	5-7
91% definitely feel safe at placement	<b>More positive</b>	<b>98%</b>	7-9
65% definitely find it easy to talk to their carer	<b>More positive</b>	<b>84%</b>	7-9
89% say their carer helps them	<b>More positive</b>	<b>96%</b>	7-9
44% reported some bullying at school	<b>No difference</b>	<b>43%</b>	7-9
88% definitely feel safe at placement	<b>No difference</b>	<b>88%</b>	10-14
13% reported bullying at placement	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>18%</b>	10-14
26% reported some bullying at school	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>29%</b>	10-14
76% say they get on 'very well' with carer	<b>No difference</b>	<b>78%</b>	10-14
70% feel completely able to talk to carer	<b>More positive</b>	<b>74%</b>	10-14
83% definitely feel safe at placement	<b>More positive</b>	<b>86%</b>	15+
71% definitely live where they want to	<b>More positive</b>	<b>74%</b>	15+
11% reported bullying at placements			15+

### Previous Action Points:

- **Strategy in place for individuals experiencing bullying.**
- The majority of all age groups (three-quarters or more) gave the most positive response for feeling safe where they lived, with the younger children being particularly positive (52 of 55 in the 5-7 group; 45 of 46 in the 7-9 group; 113 of 129 in the 10-14 group; 24 of 28 in the 15+ group). These findings are the same as those of previous time periods, although the younger age groups gave slightly more positive responses in this time period. Of the two oldest age groups, 10 10-14s said they did not 'really' feel safe and one young person aged 15+ said they felt 'not very safe'. In the two youngest age groups, one child in the 5-7 group and no children in the 7-9 group said they did not feel safe.
- Around a quarter of 5-7s (6 of 42) and 7-9s (12 of 46) reported someone upsetting them where they live, with 9 5-7s (of 55) and 8 7-9s (of 46) saying 'sometimes' and 4 5-7s and 4 7-9s saying 'yes'. These findings are similar to those from the previous 6 months.
- **Of 10-14 year olds, 23 of 129 said they were bullied 'a bit', 'a lot' or 'all the time' at their placement, with a similar proportion of girls and boys reported bullying at their placement. Over a quarter of this age group said they experienced bullying at school, definitely or 'sometimes' (36 of 125), which is less positive than the responses given by the group in the previous time period.** Of those who felt they had been bullied at school, most talked to 'parents/carers' (21%) or 'teachers' (15%). However, 4 of young people responding said they spoke to 'nobody'. **In contrast to the previous 6-months, more boys than girls reported bullying at school (26% of females; 32% of males).**
- Over a third of the 7-9 age group (19 of 44) said they had experienced some bullying at school, saying 'yes' or 'sometimes'. This proportion is similar to that of the previous time period.

- Over three-quarters of the 5-7s (47 of 55) and 7-9s (38 of 45) gave the most positive response for finding it easy to talk to their carer, with most of the remaining children saying 'sometimes'. **Two children in the 5-7 group and two in the 7-9 group said they found it difficult to talk to their carer.** These results are more positive than the views of the groups surveyed in the previous time period. As was also found in the previous time period, three-quarters of the 10-14 year olds gave the most positive response for feeling able to talk to their carer (92 of 125), with a further 28 saying 'sometimes, it depends'. This group were slightly more positive, compared to the previous time period.
- The majority of the 5-7 and 7-9 groups were also positive about their carers helping them, with 50 of 55 5-7s and 43 of 45 7-9s giving the most positive response, and the remaining children saying 'sometimes'. These results are less positive for the 5-7s but more positive for the 7-9s, compared to the views of the groups responding in the previous 6 months.
- Excluding those who said they were 'not sure', three-quarters of the 15+ group said they lived where they wanted, as was also found in the previous time period. **However, 6 young people said they did not live where they wanted to (of 30).**
- As was also found in the previous time period, three quarters of the 10-14 age group said they got on 'very well' with their carer and only one (of 129) said 'not very well'. This is comparable to the previous time period.
- In the two older age groups, most young people said they could follow their religion and customs, **with 11 (of 159 altogether) saying 'no'.**

#### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. These young people were largely positive about aspects of placement safety, with all of the young people saying they felt safe where they lived (9 of 9), and one of the 9 young people responding saying that someone upset them where they lived.
- The young people were also positive about placement relationships, with most saying that it was completely easy to talk to or they could definitely ask their carer about things (7 of 9), and most saying their carer helped them (6 of 7). **Two of 8 young people said they were 'sometimes' bullied at school and 5 of 6 said they knew how to get help, or could definitely use a telephone in private.**

## 2b. Staying Safe: Social Worker Issues

### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
52% definitely find it easy to talk to SW	<b>More positive</b>	<b>64%</b>	5-7
43% say SW definitely helps them	<b>More positive</b>	<b>74%</b>	5-7
43% definitely see SW when they want	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>30%</b>	7-9
61% definitely find it easy to talk to SW	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>57%</b>	7-9
67% say SW definitely helps them	<b>More positive</b>	<b>73%</b>	7-9
78% say they know how to get help			7-9
54% definitely see SW as often as they want	<b>More positive</b>	<b>57%</b>	10-14
55% feel completely able to talk to SW	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>50%</b>	10-14
67% say SW definitely helps them	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>61%</b>	10-14
44% definitely have a good relationship with SW	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>30%</b>	15+
78% know how to contact SW if needed	<b>No difference</b>	<b>77%</b>	15+
54% had the out of hours contact information needed	<b>More positive</b>	<b>61%</b>	15+

### Previous Action Points:

- **Ensure young people have out of hours contact numbers.**
- **Explore more creative methods of keeping in touch with children between statutory visits.**
- All of the young people aged 5-7 said their social worker visited them, either definitely (38 of 53) or sometimes (15 of 53), whereas in previous time periods a minority of children had said they weren't visited.
- Under a third of 7-9 year olds definitely felt they could see their SW when they liked (13 of 44, with 7 saying they definitely did not see their SW when they wanted). As was also found in the previous time period, this rose to over half of 10-14 year olds (72 of 126), although 25 young people said 'not really' or 'not at all'. The 7-9 group in particular are less positive the group responding in the previous time period. **Under a third of the 15+ group saw their SW 'once a month' or more (9 of 30), with 14 saying 'every two months' and 7 saying 'every six months', which is less positive than the responses of the group in the previous time period.**
- In the two youngest age groups, over half of the children and young people gave the most positive response for finding it easy to talk to their social worker (34 of 53 5-7s; 25 of 44 7-9s), with a further quarter saying 'sometimes' (15 of 53 5-7s; 14 of 44 7-9s). The responses of the 5-7 group were more positive in this time period, with the 7-9 group giving slightly less positive responses, compared to the previous year's group. **Nevertheless, across both age groups, 9 children said they did not find it easy to talk to their social worker.** The 10-14 age group were less positive than the group responding in the previous time period, with only half saying they felt 'completely' able to talk to their SW (63 of 125), and 20 young people saying 'not really' or 'not at all'.
- **The two youngest age groups were also more positive about social workers helping them**, in comparison to the responses of the group of children in the previous time period. Around three-quarters of both age groups said their social worker definitely helped them. (39 of 53 5-7s; 32 of 44 7-9s). Across both age groups, 9 (of 97) children said their social worker did not help them (compared to 14 of 88 in the previous time period). The 10-14

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group, however, were less positive than the group responding in the previous time period, with under two-thirds saying their SW definitely helped them (76 of 125) and 24 saying 'not really' or 'not at all'.

- **The 15+ group gave less positive responses about their relationship with the social worker**, with under a third giving the most positive response for having a good relationship (9 of 30) and a further 14 saying 'it is okay'. **Seven young people in this group said they did not have a good relationship with their social worker ('not really' or 'not at all'.**
- Most of the 7-9s said they knew where to get help if they were worried (42 of 44), with two saying they were 'not sure'. **Around a tenth of young people in the 10-14 age group said they could not use a phone in private, not even a mobile (11 of 123), with a further 8 saying they thought so but were not sure.** This proportion of young people remains unchanged from previous time periods. Around three-quarters of the 15+ age group knew how to contact their social worker if they needed to (23 of 30), although six said they did not. **Over half** had the out of office hours help contact numbers they felt they needed (17 of 28). Again, this proportion of young people remains largely unchanged from previous time periods.
- Of 28 young people in the 15+ age group, 10 did not know, or were not sure who to contact with accommodation problems.

#### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. **This group of young people were more positive about contact with social workers, with 5 of 7 saying they saw their SWs when they like, or as often as they liked,** and with 7 of 9 saying their SW definitely helped them and 7 of 9 saying they definitely felt able to talk to their SW.

### 3a. Enjoying and Achieving at School

#### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
62% say they are happy at school 'all the time'	<b>More positive</b>	<b>69%</b>	5-7
90% say carer definitely helps with schoolwork	<b>No difference</b>	<b>91%</b>	5-7
65% say they are definitely happy at school	<b>More positive</b>	<b>77%</b>	7-9
70% definitely get the help needed at school	<b>More positive</b>	<b>73%</b>	7-9
74% say carer definitely helps with schoolwork	<b>More positive</b>	<b>77%</b>	7-9
54% say they have a PEP / know about PEP	<b>More positive</b>	<b>61%</b>	7-9
72% reported no worries at school	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>67%</b>	10-14
82% say carer definitely helps with schoolwork	<b>No difference</b>	<b>83%</b>	10-14
86% definitely have a quiet place for homework	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>77%</b>	10-14
70% say they have a PEP / know about PEP	<b>No difference</b>	<b>71%</b>	10-14
81% definitely get the help needed at school / college	<b>No difference</b>	<b>81%</b>	15+
76% definitely have enough space for homework	<b>More positive</b>	<b>81%</b>	15+
67% want to stay on at school / college	<b>More positive</b>	<b>71%</b>	15+

#### Previous Action Points:

- **Acknowledge the importance of friends at school with implications for ensuring continuity of school placement.**
  - **Explore targeted tutoring for the 10-14 age group.**
- Under 90% of the 5-7s said they went to school every day, with 6 of 54 children saying 'not always' or 'no'. Of 44 7-9s responding, most said they went to school every day, with 3 saying 'most days'. Of 125 10-14s responding, under 90% said they went to school every day, with 110 of 125 saying 'yes'. However, the reasons given for not attending included being poorly, doing work experience, being placed elsewhere by the local authority, not having school every day, in addition to having difficulties with other people or not liking it. In the 15+ group 25 of 28 said they attended school, college, training or work.
- Two-thirds of children in the 5-7 age group said they were happy at school, all of the time (37 of 54), with three-quarters of the 7-9 group saying they were happy all of the time (34 of 44). **The children in both age groups were more positive, about school compared to the previous time period. However, 4 children across both age groups said they were not happy at school.**
- **As was also found in the previous time period, when the 10-14 age group were asked what they like most about school 'friends' were the highest priority (around three-quarters of the group), with 'learning', 'PE' and 'lunch' being the next most commonly selected (by around a third).**
- **Of 53 children in the 5-7 age group, 10 reported being upset or sad at school, with a further 20 saying 'sometimes'. Of 44 children in the 7-9 age group, 7 reported being upset at school, with a further 14 saying 'sometimes'. When asked who they talked to about this, the 5-7 children said they talked to teachers, dinner ladies, friends, carers or parents. These results are similar to those from the previous 6 months.**

- Two-thirds of the 10-14 age group said they had no worries at school but **41 young people answered 'yes' or 'maybe' (of 125). Again, more 10-14s in this time period reported concerns about school, compared to the previous 6 months.** As was also found in the previous time period, falling out or fighting with other young people and bullying were most commonly cited as a reason, with other reasons including test, exams, grades, falling behind in schoolwork, teachers and going to secondary school.
- Of 21 young people in the 15+ group, 15 said they wanted to stay on at school / college and another 3 were still 'unsure'.
- The 10-14 age group were asked to rate their progress at school on a scale of 0 to 100. Of this group, just under two-thirds gave a rating of 80 or more (88 of 125) and 18 gave the lowest rating of 0-30. **However, as was also found in the previous time period, around a quarter of the young people said they wanted more support with literacy (30 young people) or numeracy (35 young people), and around two-thirds said they wanted more support with 'something else' (83 responses).**
- Around 90% of the 5-7s and three-quarters of the 7-9s said their carer helped them with school work, with most of the remaining respondents saying 'sometimes', and 4 children across both age groups saying their carer didn't help them. Just under three-quarters of the 7-9s said they got the help they needed at school (32 of 44). Over 80% of the 10-14 group gave the most positive response for their carer helping them with schoolwork. In the 15+ age group, over three-quarters said they got as much help as they wanted with school or college work, **although and 4 of 21 said they wanted more help.** Again, this is similar to the results for the previous 6 months.
- A third of 7-9 year olds did not know whether they had a PEP (14 of 44), with a further 3 saying they did not have a PEP. These are broadly the same findings as those for the group in the previous time period. By 10-14, over two-thirds of the young people knew what a PEP was and knew if they had a PEP. **This proportion is the same as that found for the group responding in the previous time period, with a fifth still saying they didn't know what a PEP was or they didn't know if they had a PEP (23 of 125).**
- Around three-quarters or more of the 10-14 and 15+ age groups said they had enough space or a quiet place to do their homework (96 of 125 aged 10-14; 17 of 21 aged 15+), **although the 10-14 group gave less positive responses, compared to the group responding in the previous 6 months.**

### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. These young people were largely positive about aspects of enjoying and achieving, **with 7 of 7 saying they were always happy at school and 8 of 9 saying nothing upset or worried them at school.** In addition, 6 of 6 said they got the help they needed at school and 8 of 9 said their carer definitely helped them with schoolwork. **However, just over half of the young people knew about their PEP (5 of 8).**

### 3b. Enjoying and Achieving in Leisure and PSD

#### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
48% can do the things they enjoy as often as they like	<b>More positive</b>	<b>51%</b>	5-7
91% say carer definitely says when they've done well	<b>More positive</b>	<b>96%</b>	7-9
61% can do the things they enjoy as often as they like	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>56%</b>	7-9
59% can do their hobbies as often as they like	<b>More positive</b>	<b>61%</b>	10-14
69% say carer definitely encourages hobbies	<b>More positive</b>	<b>76%</b>	10-14
76% say carer definitely notices when they've done well	<b>More positive</b>	<b>81%</b>	10-14
75% can do their hobbies as often as they like	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>61%</b>	15+

- The two youngest age groups were generally positive about being able to do hobbies or the things they enjoyed as often as they liked, although only around half gave the most positive response and the 7-9 group were gave less positive responses than the group responding in the previous time period. Across both groups, 9 children said they were *not* able to do the things they enjoyed as often as they liked. Of 129 young people in the 10-14 group, 13 said they were not able to do their hobbies as often as they liked ('not at all' or 'not really'). Of 28 young people in the 15+ group, 11 said they were not able to do their hobbies as often as they liked, which is less positive than the responses given by the group in the previous time period.
- Three-quarters of 10-14s said they were 'completely' encouraged by their carer in their hobbies (97 of 128), with a further 9 saying 'just about'. Again, as with previous time periods, a wide range of hobbies were undertaken, but almost all young people cited some kind of sport or physical activity.
- Both of the 7-9 and 10-14 age groups were very positive about their carer noticing or commenting about when they do well, with 43 of 45 7-9s and 101 of 125 10-14s giving the most positive response. These results are more positive those given by the group responding in the previous 6 months, although four young people aged 10-14 said their carer did not notice or praise them.

#### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. This group of young people were positive about carer support, with all of the young people saying their carer definitely noticed or told them when they did well (8 of 9). **The young people were also positive about hobbies, with most saying they could definitely do their hobbies as often as they liked (7 of 9).**

#### 4a. Making a Positive Contribution: Contributing to Decision Making

##### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
60% say SW definitely discusses care with them	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>47%</b>	5-7
61% know why they are in care	<b>More positive</b>	<b>68%</b>	7-9
57% say SW definitely discusses care with them	<b>No difference</b>	<b>55%</b>	7-9
54% say SW discussed what they want to happen	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>50%</b>	7-9
54% want to go to review meetings	<b>No difference</b>	<b>52%</b>	7-9
85% know why they are in care	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>76%</b>	10-14
79% know they have a care plan	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>77%</b>	10-14
61% say SW completely discussed review with them	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>48%</b>	10-14
67% are going to their next review	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>63%</b>	10-14
51% think their views are always listened to	<b>No difference</b>	<b>50%</b>	10-14
30% have a Pathway Plan	<b>No difference</b>	<b>30%</b>	15+
29% know what housing is available after care	<b>No difference</b>	<b>29%</b>	15+
21% are often asked for their views of service	<b>No difference</b>	<b>25%</b>	15+
67% have access to an advocate	<b>No difference</b>	<b>70%</b>	15+

##### Previous Action Points:

- **Prepare children better for placements.**
  - **Fix timings of meetings to enable young people to attend without missing important school events.**
  - **Ensure Care Plans and Pathway Plans are in place and that CYP have a copy**
  - **Clarify complaints procedure for 15+.**
  - **Ensure race, culture, religion and customs are addressed in every Care and Pathway Plans.**
- Of 53 5-7 year olds, 25 said their SW definitely talked to them about why they were living at their foster/residential placement, with 31 of 46 7-9s saying their SW definitely talked to them. **However, 9 children aged 5-7 and 15 children aged 7-9 said their SW did not talk to them.** Under three-quarters of 7-9 year olds felt that they definitely knew why they were living in care (30 of 44) compared with over 80% of 10-14s who were asked the same question (118 of 140). These results were slightly more positive than those found for the group responding in the previous time period.
  - Around two-thirds of the 7-9 year olds thought that they had discussed being in care with their SW, definitely or 'a bit' (31 of 44), although most of the 7-9s said their SW had asked what they wanted to happen, definitely or 'a bit' (39 of 44). However, the proportion of children giving the most positive response for both questions is no different from that found for the group in the previous time period. Half of the 7-9s group said they wanted to attend their review meetings (23 of 44). Again, these results matched those from the previous time period.
  - As was also found in the previous time period, **about half of 10-14 year olds reported dissatisfaction about discussions with their SWs about reviews, with a quarter saying they had not discussed their review 'at all' with their SWs (32 of 124) and 5 young people saying they did not know what their review was. In this 6-month period, the 10-14s were again less positive about discussing or attending their**

**reviews.** Under two-thirds of the young people said they were going to their next review (78 of 123), but 30 were 'not sure' and 15 said 'no'.

- As was also found in the previous time period, under two-thirds of 10-14s thought that they received enough information to make decisions about their future (77 of 124), with a further 22 feeling they had some but would like more. **Again, as was also found in the previous time period, half of the 10-14s thought their views were listened to 'always' (62 of 124), with a further 44 saying 'usually'.**
- **Only 7 of 28 young people in the 15+ group gave the most positive response for being asked what would improve services for young people leaving care..** In this group, 21 of 28 young people said they were asked 'hardly ever', 'not often' or 'never', of which 10 said 'never'. This remains unchanged from the responses given by the group in the previous time period. *(Please most of the sample are aged 15 ½ -16)*
- **Three-quarters of the 10-14 group said they knew they had a care plan (95 of 124).** Of these, most of the young people said they were helped to understand it, either definitely or 'just about' (88 of 95), showing similar results to those of the group responding in the previous 6 months.
- **In the 15+ age group only 9 of 30 young people were certain they had a Pathway Plan. This remains unchanged from the group responding in the previous 6 months.** Of the 9 young people, 4 thought their Plan 'completely' took into account everything that was important, one said they had a copy of their plan and none said they knew how it would be reviewed. *(Please note the most of the sample are aged 15 ½ - 16).*
- Most of the 10-14 and 15+ groups knew they could get help to make a complaint (106 of 123 10-14s; 23 of 28 15+), a similar number to the previous time periods. **Of 27 young people in the 15+ group, 19 said they had access to an advocate, a similar proportion to the previous time period.**
- On a sliding scale of 0 to 100, over a third of the 15+ group gave the most positive rating of 80-100 for understanding the information they were given (12 of 28). This is still lower than previous time periods, when over half had given the most positive rating. Again, these results match those of the previous time period.
- Under a third of the 15+ group knew what post care housing was available to them - leaving 20 of 28 young people being negative or doubtful, a similar finding to the previous time period. *(Again, please note sample age).*

### Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. **Although most of the young people said they knew why they were in care (7 of 8),** and 5 of 7 said their SW definitely talked to them about why they were living at their placement, only 3 of 6 said their SW definitely talked about what they wanted to happen. **Only one of 6 young people responding said they would like to attend review meetings.**

## 4b. Making a Positive Contribution: Family and Friends

### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
48% say friends can definitely visit placement	<b>No difference</b>	<b>47%</b>	5-7
55% definitely see friends as often as they like	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>44%</b>	5-7
31% definitely see family when they want	<b>More positive</b>	<b>36%</b>	5-7
45% say they have life story information	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>29%</b>	5-7
52% say friends can definitely visit placement	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>47%</b>	7-9
65% definitely see friends as often as they like	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>62%</b>	7-9
43% definitely see family when they want	<b>Less positive</b>	<b>27%</b>	7-9
52% say they have life story information	<b>No difference</b>	<b>52%</b>	7-9
43% say friends can visit placement as much as like	<b>More positive</b>	<b>50%</b>	10-14
51% definitely see friends as much as they want	<b>More positive</b>	<b>57%</b>	10-14
54% definitely in touch with family as much as want	<b>More positive</b>	<b>58%</b>	10-14
42% say they have enough life story information	<b>No difference</b>	<b>42%</b>	10-14
56% definitely see family as often as they like	<b>No difference</b>	<b>57%</b>	15+

### Previous Action Points:

- **Prioritise life story information and family contact arrangements.**

### Friends

- Most of the children aged 5-7 and 7-9 said they had friends their own age, with four children aged 5-7 and one aged 7-9 saying they did not have friends their own age. Three-quarters or more of the young people in the other two age groups said they were able to make and keep friends their own age, all or most of the time, **although 30 young people aged 10-14 (of 128) and 3 young people aged 15+ (of 30) said they could not make or keep friends of their own age ('not at all' or 'not really')**. These results are similar to those from the previous 6 months.
- Over three-quarters of the 5-7 and 7-9 groups felt friends could visit their placement, saying 'yes' or 'sometimes', although under half of the children gave the most positive response. Across both age groups, 15 children said their friends could *not* visit their placement. At 10-14, over three-quarters said their friends could visit 'as much as I like' or 'sometimes' (109 of 128). However, 12 young people in this group said their friends couldn't visit and 7 said they didn't have any friends to visit them.
- The two youngest age groups of children were positive about seeing friends as often as they liked, with over three-quarters saying 'yes' or 'sometimes', although under two-thirds of the children gave the most positive response. Across both age groups, 17 said they could *not* see their friends as much as they wanted. Just over half of the 10-14s said they 'definitely' saw their friends as often as they liked (73 of 128), with a further 34 saying 'just about'. **The younger age groups were slightly less positive and the 10-14 group were slightly more positive, compared to the groups responding in the previous period.**

## Family

- **Under a third of the children in the 5-7 age groups said they had life story information** (15 of 52) and half of the 7-9 group said they had life story information (23 of 44). **Under half of the 10-14s said they had all the life story information they wanted** (53 of 237). **The proportion of children and young people in all age groups saying they had enough life story information is unchanged or less positive than the group responding in the previous time period.**
- The life story information that young people aged 10-14 most commonly wanted included life story information in general, more information about their particular family members, more detailed information, information about when they were younger, what happened when they came into care, photographs, letters and family history/family trees.
- **A third or less of children in the two lower age groups said they could definitely see their family when they wanted**, the same proportion as those saying they could *not* see their family when they wanted (14 of 55 5-7s and 18 of 45 7-9s gave the most negative response). **Just over half of the 10-14 and 15+ groups were ‘definitely’ able to keep in touch with their family as much as they wanted** (74 of 128 10 to 14s and 17 of 30 15+). Of the 10-14s, 23 said ‘not really’ or ‘not at all’, and of the 15+ 13 said not as much as they liked or not at all. Overall, slightly more 10-14s were positive than the previous 6 months, but a large proportion were still unhappy, but the 15+ group gave similar responses to those of the previous 6 months.
- As was also found in the previous time period, the contact arrangements that young people aged 10-14 most commonly described wanting to change included the frequency of contact, seeing people more often or for longer, having contact with people they currently did not have contact with, overnight stay arrangements and the arrangements for seeing friends.
- Of 128 10-14s, 68 said they had overnight stays. Most of this group were ‘completely’ happy with the arrangements for overnight stays with friends or family (55 of 68, although 6 said ‘not really’ or ‘not at all’).

## Out of Age Group

- Nine young people completed a questionnaire outside their chronological age group. These young people completed questionnaires for ages 5-7, 7-9 and 10-14. **As with other groups, this group of young people were also less positive about family contact. Only 1 of 9 said they definitely saw their family when / as often as they liked and only half said they had enough life story information (4 of 7). In addition, although 7 of 9 said they definitely saw their friends as often as they liked, only 3 of 9 said their friends could definitely visit where they lived as much as they liked.**



## 5. Economic Wellbeing

### Previous Key Findings:

Previous Key Findings (Oct 07-March 08)	Findings Apr 08 – Sept 08		Age Group
62% have a bank account	No difference	61%	10-14
87% definitely have things needed for personal care	No difference	87%	10-14
86% definitely have things needed for school	Less positive	79%	10-14
67% can use computer at their placement when they like	No difference	66%	10-14
96% definitely have things needed for personal care	No difference	93%	15+
21% definitely told financial help they are entitled to	More positive	41%	15+
58% get enough information on managing money	More positive	66%	15+
38% know about college grants / funds	No difference	39%	15+

### Previous Action Points:

- Review computer access for 10-14s.
- Ensure financial help and information is easily available
- Ensure more information is available on housing, college grants and funds

### Access to material goods

- Of 54 children in the 5-7 age group, 32 said they definitely had pocket money.
- Under half of the 5-7s said they went to a library (22 of 54) although three-quarters of the 7-9s said they had access to a library (34 of 45), results which are lower than those of the previous time period.
- The majority of both the 10-14 and 15+ age groups were positive about having things for their personal care (112 of 129 10-14s; 28 of 30 15+). In total, in both age groups, 19 young people said they didn't have enough or would like more of these items.
- Over three-quarters of 10-14s said they definitely had all the items they needed for school (99 of 125), a lower proportion compared to the responses of the group in the previous time period.
- Over a third of 10-14s did not have a bank account (48 of 125), and only two-thirds of the 15+ group said they knew how to open an account (19 of 29). These results were similar to those of the previous time period.
- Of 125 young people responding in the 10-14 group, 14 said they did not have a computer and a further 12 said they couldn't use one very often. These findings show no difference from those of the group responding in the previous 6 months.
- Only 12 (of 29) young people aged 15+ said that they had been told what financial help they were entitled to. The responses are more positive than the responses given in the previous time period, but still the same number of young people have and have not been told about financial help. Two-thirds of this group also thought they had enough advice about managing money (19 of 29), again a more positive finding, and most said they were not in debt (28 of 29). (Again, note sample age)

**Further Education, Training and Employment**

- **Only a third of the 15+ group felt they knew enough about college grants and funds (11 of 28), a similar proportion to the group responding in the previous time period.**

## Appendix: Question content by Five Outcomes

### 1. Keeping healthy

Question Area	Age Group responding
<b>Physical Health</b>	
Do you think you are healthy?	5-7, 7-9
Concerns and views about own health	10-14, 15+
Having a health plan	10-14
How often exercise or play sport	10-14
Having someone to talk to about your health	10-14, 15+
Having sufficient health information	15+
Registration with local health services	15+
<b>Mental/Emotional Health</b>	
Feeling happy/settled in placement	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Sleeping well	5-7, 7-9
Feeling happy or sad	5-7, 7-9
Feeling anger or frustration	10-14
Can talk to SW about specific things e.g. drugs	15+

### 2. Staying safe

Question Area	Age Group responding
<b>Placement and Bullying Issues</b>	
Feel safe at placement	5-7, 7-9, 10-14, 15+
Nobody upsets them where they live	5-7, 7-9
Can get help/use a phone in private	7-9, 10-14, 15+
Not bullied at placement	10-14
Not bullied at school	7-9, 10-14
Have space to keep things safe in their room	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Can talk to Carer	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Carer helpful	5-7, 7-9
<b>Social Worker Issues</b>	
Can see SW as often as they like	7-9, 10-14, 15+
Can talk to SW	5-7, 7-9, 10-14, 15+
SW is helpful	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
SW visits them	5-7
Can get help with accommodation	15+

### 3. Enjoying and Achieving

Question Area	Age Group responding
<b>At School</b>	
Regularly attend school/college	5-7, 7-9, 10-14, 15+
Happy at school	5-7, 7-9
Worries at school	10-14
Want to stay on at school	15+
Nothing upsets them at school	5-7, 7-9
Getting on well at school	10-14
Help with school work	5 to7, 7-9, 10-14, 15+
Have Personal Education Plan	7-9, 10-14
Quiet space for homework	10-14, 15+
<b>In Leisure / PSD</b>	
Can do hobbies as often as like	5-7, 7-9, 10-14, 15+
Carer encourages hobbies	10-14
Carer tells/notices when do well	5-7, 7-9, 10-14

### 4. Making a Positive Contribution

Question Area	Age Group responding
<b>Engage in Decision Making</b>	
Social Worker talked about being in care	5-7, 7-9
Know why in care / at placement	7-9, 10-14
Social Worker talked about being in care	5-7, 7-9
SW talked about what they want to happen	7-9,
Would like to go to review meetings	7-9
SW talked about review meeting	10-14
Going to next review	10-14
Receive enough information about the future	10-14
Think their views are listened to	10-14
Know have / Helped to understand care plan	10-14
Know, understand about and agree with Pathway Plan	15+
Able to follow religion and customs	10-14, 15+
Know how to make a complaint	10-14, 15+
Have access to advocate	15+
Understand social care information	15+
<b>Family and Friends</b>	
Have life story information	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Happy with family contact	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Happy with overnight stay arrangements	10-14
Can make / keep friends of own age	5-7, 7-9, 10-14, 15plus
Friends can visit at placement	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Happy with contact with friends	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Live where they want	15+
Happy with food they get to eat	5-7, 7-9, 10-14
Can choose / have new clothes bought for them	5-7, 7-9
Get on with carer	10-14

## 5. Economic Wellbeing

Question Area	Age Group responding
<b>Access to material goods</b>	
Have pocket money	5-7
Access to a library	5-7, 7-9
Have new things bought for them	10-14,
Have things for personal care	10-14, 15+
Have things needed for school	10-14
Have a bank account / know how to open one	10-14, 15+
Access to a computer in placement	10-14
Informed about financial help	15+
Enough financial advice	15+
Know about post-care housing	15+
<b>Further Education, Training and Employment</b>	
Know about college grants/funds	15+
Enough help with training / to get a job	15+

