

Children's Homes Career Standards: Focus group information sheet (16+)

What is this focus group about?

Research in Practice have been asked by the Department for Education, who are responsible for children's services and education, to draft Career Standards for the people that work in children's homes. These Career Standards will say what people working in children's homes should know and the things that they should be able to do so that they can support and care for the children and young people that live in children's homes.

What am I being asked to do?

You are invited to take part because you are either currently living in a children's home, or you have recently lived in one. This means that you have experience of what life in a children's home is really like, and your views and ideas can help us to make sure that the Career Standards cover the things that matter most to children and young people.

We would like you to speak to two people from Research in Practice in a small focus group of people that you already know. This might for example be a Children in Care Council, or another group that you are part of where you share your experiences and ideas about how services for children and young people can be improved. You do not have to tell us anything personal about your personal experiences.

Where will I do this?

The focus group will happen in the place that you normally meet with your group. This might be in-person or online.

Who else will be there?

Other children and young people that normally go to your group will also be there, so will any professionals who go to your group to help children and young

people take part in them. Two people from the Research in Practice team will join online.

What will we do?

At the group, we would like to hear your thoughts on the draft Career Standards, including what works well about them and what could be improved. There will be a mixture of things to do. We might ask you to talk, draw, and take part in some other short and fun activities. We will ask to record the group activities so that we can focus on what you are saying instead of taking notes. However, if any group members would prefer to not be recorded, then we can take handwritten notes instead. If the group is happy to be recorded, the recording will be deleted within two weeks of the focus group. In the notes any identifying details, like names of children or schools, will be removed or changed.

Talking in front of other people

We will make sure that everyone can communicate their ideas in a way that works for them. Where possible, we will also have a quiet space away from the main activities that you can use for a break whenever you want. If you would like to, you can tell one of the professionals who normally goes to your group about how Research in Practice can best support you before the focus group so that we can plan ahead and make sure everyone feels included.

Who will know what I say?

Everything you say will be confidential and anonymous.

Confidential means: we will not share information which identifies you or another person without your permission, unless a) we think there is a risk of harm to you or someone else b) information shared suggests that a criminal or corrupt act, or serious professional misconduct has occurred. If this happened, we would need to tell someone who could help and we would discuss this with you first, unless it might put you or someone else at further risk of harm.

Anonymous means: we will use your views in the consultation, and we might use your words in the draft Career Standards as a quote. But we will not use your

real name and nothing we write in the Career Standards will give away an information that could be used to identify anyone.

Other young people and adults will be in the group and will hear what you say. We will ask everyone to respect each other's privacy and not share personal information outside the group

What happens after the group?

We will use information from your focus group, along with anonymised information from focus groups and interviews we are also running with other children and young people and professionals who work in or with children's homes, to write our final draft of the Children's Homes Career Standards for the Department for Education. Three months after the draft is finished, we will destroy all of the information that we collected. To say thank you for your time and help, we will give you a £40 voucher at the end of the group.

What happens if I want to stop being in the group?

It is fine if you want to take a break, or to stop. We will check in with you to see whether you have any questions or need to talk, and we will ask your parent, carer or somebody close to you to also check in with you. If you decide after the group that you don't want to be involved, then you can or your parent or carer can ask us to remove your information. It's ok if you want to stop, and you don't need to give a reason why. You will not be in any trouble, the current support that you receive will not change, and you will still get the £40 voucher.

We hope that you will enjoy being part of this group, but if you want to raise any concerns or ask us any questions before or afterwards – you can contact our consultation lead James - jshutkever@ncb.org.uk. Should you have any complaints, our procedure can be found [here](#).