



Integrated Service for Looked After & Adopted Children

Who are we?

ISL is a multi-agency team of professionals working alongside each other to support Looked After & Adopted Children and their carers.

Our Vision

To ensure that Looked After & Adopted Children gain maximum life chance benefits from educational opportunities, health care and social care through additional support.

How are we going to achieve our vision?

ISL are committed to working in partnership with all agencies and services in order to improve outcomes for Looked After & Adopted Children (LAAC).

Who do we support?

- Looked After Children / Children in Kinship Care
- Foster / Kinship carers
- Residential carers
- Pre-adoptive and adopted children
- Schools and Designated Teachers
- A network of professionals and agencies working with Looked After & Adopted Children

Our Aims

We work together to meet the needs of Looked After & Adopted Children, young people and their carers to:

- Promote and support their social, emotional, educational and health needs;
- Work in partnership to provide a holistic and collaborative approach to meet individual needs;



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- Support carers to provide stable, secure placements that promote positive relationships and meet emotional needs;
- Raise attainment and promote inclusion.

We aim to improve outcomes for Looked After & Adopted Children and Young People in 5 areas:

1. Enjoying and achieving

To support educational opportunities and improve outcomes we:

- Monitor all Looked After & Adopted Children in their educational placement.
- Work directly with children or young people in the school.
- Support the school and Designated Teacher around the individual needs of the child and collective needs of the establishment.
- Ensure all Looked After Children have a high quality and meaningful Personal Educational Plan (PEP).
- Focus on achievement through individual target setting and raising attainment across all Key Stages.
- Provide long-term mentoring support for Years 10 & 11 and continue this into Year 12 Further Education.
- Support children, young people and carers through transition times.
- Provide support and advice on educational matters to all professionals working with Looked After & Adopted Children.
- Support Looked After & Adopted Children to attend school working in close collaboration with Social Services and the Educational Welfare Service.
- Support Looked After & Adopted Children at Foundation Stage for one year before entering Reception class (each 3-5 year old will have an Early Years PEP).



Worcestershire

2. Being Healthy

To support and promote health and well-being we:

- Work in partnership with colleagues in mainstream Health Services to raise awareness about the health needs of Looked After & Adopted Children.
- Ensure each Looked After & Adopted Child and young person has an initial Health Assessment and follow-up reviews.
- Provide training to professionals across all agencies about the health needs of Looked After & Adopted Children.
- Support carers by providing face-to-face contact, advice, home visits, group work and training on the health needs of LAAC.
- Work closely with Children's Homes to ensure health promotion and well-being is addressed.

3. Being Safe

To support the social care placement we:

- Provide a responsive consultation service to support networks and promote a stable care environment.
- Provide therapeutic interventions and group work.
- Provide training to enable carers to understand and support the needs of Looked After & Adopted Children.
- Use Protective Behaviours to help Looked After & Adopted Children to feel safe and understand their feelings.
- Provide information, advice, leisure passes and targeted project work to promote access to Community and Leisure activities.

4. Positive Contribution

To encourage participation and positive behaviour we:

- Work with young people to ensure their views are incorporated into ISL Service planning and delivery.
- Work with agencies to reduce absence from school and offending behaviour.

5. Economic Well-being

To support LAAC into Further Education and training we:

- Work with partners to ensure LAAC benefit from development of 14-19 opportunities.
- Work with partners to support successful transition post 16.

Why choose ISL?

- We are a rapid response service, having a simple referral process and a multi-disciplinary team of professionals.
- We are proactive and able to offer early intervention. Young people do not need to be in crisis before receiving support.
- Looked After Children have additional needs and we can provide support at all stages of the Special Needs Code of Practice and in all educational settings. Children who are not on the Code of Practice are also supported.
- The ISL service is a centrally funded resource which is not part of schools' designated budgets. We are an additional service and we work in partnership with other support services.
- ISL Support Plans are flexible, intensive and carefully time managed. We work in close partnership with other agencies and will be additional to them but not replace their work.

What kind of support can we provide?

- Teaching and support with curriculum areas, including coursework and homework
- Social and emotional mentoring
- Awareness raising and training about the needs of LAAC
- Support for revision and exams
- Time managed funding for teaching assistants and sessional workers
- Support during educational and care placement transitions
- Support in building relationships and help for young people under stress
- Use of Protective Behaviours approach with children and adults
- Playtime and lunchtime support
- Support and advice to schools, social workers and carers
- Support with leisure activities out of school and in holidays

For further information, support or advice:

If you have any questions or would like to access our support please contact us at the relevant ISL base:

ISL Team 1 offers support for education and leisure and community opportunities in the north of the county

By telephone:

01527 578410

By post:

ISL Team 1, Worcestershire County Council, The Birches, 98 New Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2LB

ISL Team 2 offers support for carers and promotes health and well-being across the whole county

By telephone:

01905 752800

By post:

ISL Team 2, Worcestershire County Council, The Pines, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8PU

ISL Team 3 offers support for education and leisure and community opportunities in the south of the county

By telephone:

01905 455319

By post:

ISL Team 3, Worcestershire County Council, The Pines, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8PU

By email:

islenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk

Online:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/isl