



Department  
for Education



# The Children's Social Care National Framework

The government's plan about how we help  
children, young people and families who  
need some extra support



# What is in this booklet

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**Page 1** Children's social care

---



**Page 5** About this framework

---



**Page 7** How we will know if the framework is working well

---



**Page 15** 3 important ways that children's social care will work

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**Page 20** More information

---

## Children's social care



Some children, young people and families need extra support to live a healthy and safe life.

This can be for lots of different reasons.



The extra support is given by your local council and is called **children's social care**.

Support from children's social care can be given to children and young people who:



- Live at home with their families and have a social worker or family support worker who supports them.



- Live with another family member. This might be an auntie or grandparent.



- Live with a foster carer. This is an adult who looks after children when they cannot live with their own family.



- Live in a children's home. This means living in a home with other young people and being supported by staff.



- Are adopted. This is when a child joins a new family because their parents cannot take care of them.

Their new parents give them a loving family for the whole of their life.

To be adopted, the local family judge has to say yes to this.



- Are young carers. This means they look after someone else in their family.



- Are unaccompanied asylum seeking children. These are young people who have come on their own to the UK from another country.

They might have left their home country because it was not safe.



- Have special educational needs and disabilities. This can affect how a child or young person learns. It can affect things like:



- How a person behaves.



- Finding it harder to make friends.



- Reading and writing.



- Being able to understand things or not being able to concentrate on something.



- How a person moves their body.



- Live by themselves now, but used to be **in care**.

**In care** means you used to live with foster carers, in a children's home or, in some cases, with another family member or family friend.



Some young people carry on getting support until they are 25.

This might be because they have a disability or lived in care when they were younger.

# About this framework



A **framework** is like a plan. It tells staff the rules they have to follow and good ways of working.

This **framework** tells children's social care staff and organisations how to work in the best way.



The framework says:

- What the best children's social care looks like.



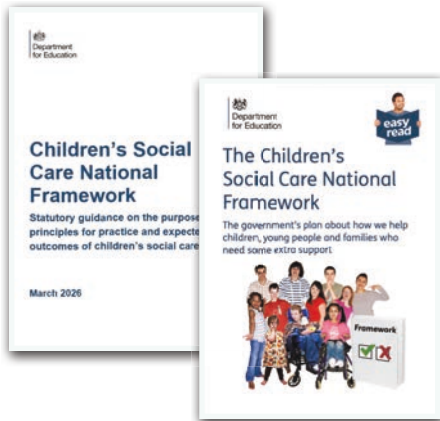
- What should happen so that children who get support from social care have the best chances in life.



- How staff should work so that children, young people and their families are supported in the best way.

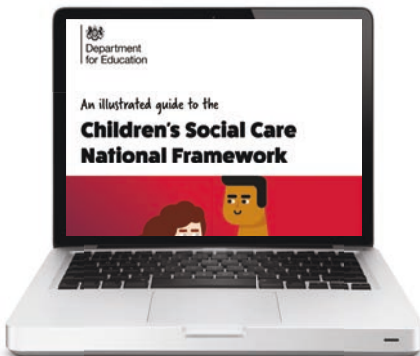


- How staff should listen to children, young people and their families.



This is an Easy Read version of the framework.

There is a bigger version you can read. It tells you more about the things in the framework.



You can find the bigger version and a version for children and young people online:

**Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

# How we will know if the framework is working well



If staff and organisations follow the framework, we should see these 4 things happening:



## 1. Children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need

This happens by:



- Giving extra support to families and carers.

Families are supported with any problems they might have. Things like health problems or feeling unsafe with a person they live with.



- Supporting children to be able to go to school and do other activities.



- Helping families have a **routine**.

A **routine** means doing things like getting up and going to bed at the same time every day.



- Helping children, young people and their families to get on well and feel happy together.



## 2. Children and young people are safe inside and outside of their homes

Staff working in children's social care will:



- Know the things or people that can harm a child or young person.



- Understand the laws and rules that are there to keep children and young people safe.



- Talk to children, young people and families to listen and understand what makes them feel unsafe.



- Speak to other local organisations to help keep children and young people safe if they need to. People like the police or health staff.



- Do the best thing for a child if they are being harmed.



Things like:

- Giving extra support to the family

or



- Finding somewhere else for a child to live if they are unsafe at home.



### 3. Children and young people are supported by their family and other important people in their lives

This happens when people working with families:



- Know who the important people in a child's life are. People like aunts and grandparents.



- Find ways for the important people in a child's life to support the family.

Things like taking them out or picking them up from school.



- Support a child to live with other important people in their life if they need to.



This only happens if parents cannot look after a child.

Parents might be poorly or having other problems.



Staff will support the people looking after the young person.



This support means that children and young people can live with and spend time with people they know and trust.



#### 4. Children in care or who used to be in care, have somewhere safe and happy to live

Staff will:

- Know lots about children and young people's lives and the things that are important to them.

Young people can have their say about where they want to live.



- Help children and young people with their dreams and what they want to do in their life.



- Help children and young people to get the health and **mental health** care that they need.

**Mental health** is how you feel in your mind and how you cope with everyday life.





- Work together with **housing staff**.



**Housing staff** find homes for people who need them.



This can help young people who used to be in care have somewhere to live.



They will have better chances to do things like making new friends and getting a job.

# 3 important ways that children's social care will work

## 1. Working together



Supporting children and young people is not just 1 person's job.

Working together means that families will get the very best support.



Children's social care staff should listen to what children and young people think.

They should have a say about what support they need from social care.



Organisations and children's social care staff need to work together.

People like:

- Social workers.



- Children's social care bosses.



- Staff in schools and colleges.



- Family support workers.



- The police.



- Doctors and nurses.



- Staff from children's charities.



Working together means that organisations can talk to each other more about the support they are giving.

They can make plans. The plans will say who needs to do what.



This makes it easier to check what is working well and what needs to change.

## 2. Good support from children's social care bosses



Bosses must know how to help staff do their jobs in the best way. They will:



- Be **experts** in their jobs. An **expert** is someone who knows a lot about something.



- Know what works well. They show staff how to do these things.



- Know how to talk to staff, families and other organisations in the best way.

### 3. Supporting staff to do their jobs well



All staff who are part of children's social care should get the best support to do their jobs.



Staff should be able to keep learning new things that will help them with their work.

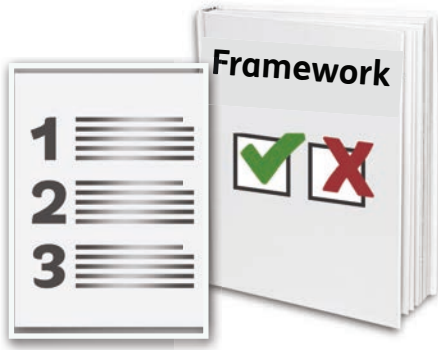


They should get good training when they need it.



Staff should work together with children's social care bosses. They will give them good support.

## More information



This Easy Read is here to tell you the main things in the children's social care framework.



If you have any questions or worries, you can speak to:

- Your social worker.



- Family support worker.



- Or any other member of staff who supports you or your family.

People like teachers, nurses and doctors.

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