

# The Independent Visitors Scheme



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share their time

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are in care

# IVs



North Yorkshire  
County Council

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## What is an Independent Visitor?

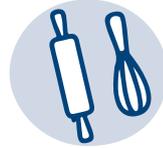
Independent visitors (also known as IVs) are adults who share their time with young people who are in care. IVs are completely separate from Children's Social Services.

Your IV does not replace your carer or social worker, but

is another person who you can rely on to support you.

They aim to be a person who is there for you for a long time, if you want them to be. They do this because they would like to see you regularly and spend time with you.

## What can they do?



IVs can support you and encourage you to make the most out of your time together. When meeting your IV, you can do activities together such as: talk over a coffee, go to the cinema, go for a walk, play football – anything you like doing or want to try out.

## An IV is there to:



Visit you regularly and be there just for you

Help you try out new interests and hobbies

Take you out and have some fun!

## You have a say in what happens

It is important that you have your say at every stage. We will ask you if you would like an IV, what sort of person you think you'll get on with and the things you would like to do. This will help us match you with someone with similar interests.

We will listen to you, your views and opinions

## What other young people have said



*"He made me forget about being in care and brought me up on my down days"*

*"Having an independent visitor has been the only stable thing in my life recently"*

*"She always comes when she says she will, she never lets me down"*

If you'd like to know more about the IV scheme speak to your social worker or foster carer.

