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Why it matters

Looked After Child is often shortened to LAC and Looked After Reviews to LAC Reviews or LAC Meetings. Many young people have told us that they do not like this language. Young people asked us to change the language to something that feels supportive and shows how important every young person is.

In February 2023, **100** participants attended our Language Creates Realities event, this event aimed to encourage the workforce to talk differently and intentionally about care experience, and tell a new story, reframing care.

“Scotland must understand that ‘language creates realities.’ Those with care experience must hold and own the narrative of their stories and lives” (The Promise p69)



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We hear you

Within South Ayrshire, **43** young people with care experience responded to a questionnaire (January-March 2023) and told us their preference was to change LAC reviews to [name of young person’s] meeting. For example,

‘Jack’s Meeting’

As of the **1st of November 2023**, all Looked After Reviews will be the name of the child / young person.



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What is changing?

There are 3 meetings associated with the looked after review process.

- The Initial Looked After Child Review will change to **‘Jack’s’ First Meeting.**
- Looked After Child Review will change to **‘Jack’s’ Meeting.**
- Substantive Looked After Review will change to **‘Jack’s’ Next Steps Meeting.**



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Who Is involved?

There is much support to make language changes across the care system in South Ayrshire.

Discussions with senior managers and service managers further consolidated the views of young people by supporting the need to change from LAC reviews to a title that is more care based in line with South Ayrshires Signs of Safety approach and the Promise.

In August 2023 Child Protection Committee and Social Work Governance Board endorsed the implementation of the name change.

Language that cares is a collaborative effort, it is everyone’s job to change how we refer to the meeting.

This includes **all** relevant professionals, managers, agencies, and families.

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Watch our short video on the changes here:
<https://vimeo.com/879810998?share=copy>

For more information contact
Dawn.Parker@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



7 Minute Briefing Changing our Care Language



south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership



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What is changing?

On the **1st of November 2023**, Looked After Child meetings will change to the name of the child / young person name.

The current processes in relation invite lists, reports and minutes of the meeting will reflect this change.

How professionals record the meeting in case observations and chronologies will also reflect the name change.



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How will we know it is working?

The Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers will ensure that the changes are being implemented. Checking in with young people as they attend their meeting to understand the impacts in ‘real time’.

We plan to do a review of young people’s experience of the changes through our Champions Board.

The files will be reviewed through the ongoing audit process.