

## Contact us

**PYPS**

### Independent Visitors

Post Office Chambers  
Upper Northam Road  
Hedge End  
SO30 4QU

**Email:**

[pyps@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:pyps@barnardos.org.uk)

**Phone:**

**01489 796684**

If we cant answer the phone please leave us a message and remember to add your contact details. Then we will get in touch with you as soon as possible

If you wish to make a comment or a complaint about this service please contact us and ask to speak to the manager.



# Independent Visitors

A guide for children and young people



## Portsmouth Young People's Services (PYPS)



## What are Independent Visitors?

- ◆ **Independent visitors** (IVs) are volunteers who befriend and support children and young people who live in residential care or have a foster carer.
- ◆ They are not Social Workers or foster carers and they are not paid to be with you.
- ◆ Independent Visitors do this because they want to help. They are interested in the lives, hopes and concerns of young people and are there to listen and advise.

## Why have an Independent Visitor?

- ◆ **Independent visitors** meet regularly with a young person to do activities together and have fun. This might be a trip to the cinema, perhaps a day out somewhere, joining in with your hobbies and games, or maybe just a coffee and a chat.
- ◆ They will also be there for you to talk to and, if you want, to help you at your reviews.



## How do I get an Independent Visitor?

- ◆ Your Social Worker will contact the IV Co-ordinator at Barnardo's Portsmouth Young People Service (PYPS).
- ◆ The Co-ordinator will then arrange to meet you to find out more about the things you like to do.
- ◆ You have a say in the sort of person you would like to become your **Independent Visitor** .
- ◆ You then get to meet the volunteer that the co-ordinator thinks is a good match for you - but **YOU** decide if the person is right for you.