

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of BASK	Date for next review
19 August 2021	Andy McEwing	August 2025

BASK Care Experienced Children Policy

At **BASK** we are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive quality environment for all children and families.

Definition and legal framework

The description 'care experienced' is an umbrella term, and generally used to describe a child who is looked after by the local authority. This includes children who are subject to a care order or temporarily classed as 'looked after' on a planned basis for short breaks or respite care. Most care experienced children will be cared for by foster carers with a small minority in children's homes, or they will be looked after by family members or even within their family home.

The legal framework for this policy is underpinned by or supported through:

- Children (Scotland) Act 2020
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- The Looked After Children (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- The Promise – Independent Care Review 2020
- Getting It Right For Every Child

Our Policy

Our aim is for all staff at BASK treat each every child as an individual. Where a child is care experienced, we recognise that for children to get the most out of educational and childcare opportunities, they need to be settled appropriately with their carer. We will discuss with the child's carer, and social worker where applicable, the length of time the child has been with them before they start BASK to establish how secure the child feels and whether they are ready to be able to cope with further separation, a new environment and new expectations made upon them.

We are aware that there a number of reasons why a child may need to be placed into care and these reasons may or may not include traumatic experiences or abuse. All our practitioners are committed to doing all they can to support all children to achieve their full potential. The BASK staff team are all trained to understand our safeguarding policy and procedures. Additional training to support children's individual needs will be planned for where appropriate. Our staff are supported by management at all times and we have an open door policy if they need to discuss any sensitive issues regarding the child.

Where necessary, we will develop a care plan with carers and others professionals. This will include:

- The child's emotional needs and how they are to be met
- How any emotional issues and problems that affect behaviour are to be managed
- The child's sense of self, culture, language/s and identity - how this is to be supported

- The child's need for sociability and friendship
- The child's interests and abilities and possible learning journey pathway
- Under GIRFEC, how any additional needs of the child will be supported.

In addition, the care plan may also consider:

- How information will be shared with the child's carer and local authority (as the 'corporate parent') as well as what information is shared with any other organisation or professionals and how it will be recorded and stored
- What contact the child has with his/her birth parent(s) and what arrangements will be in place for supervised contact. If this is to be in the setting, when, where and what form the contact will take will be discussed and agreed
- Who may collect the child from BASK and who may receive information about the child
- What written reporting is required