

nepacs

Independent  
visitor   
service

for children and  
young people in the  
north east of England





**Our Independent Visitor (IV) Service is a befriending scheme for children and young people aged 8 to 17 years who are looked after by the local authority.**

## **What is the role of an Independent Visitor (IV)?**

**Independent visitors are adult volunteers that visit and befriend a child or young person that are currently 'looked after' by the local authority. They are not paid and are choosing to spend time and build up a relationship with the child or young person they are matched with. All volunteers will be subject to enhanced DBS checks.**

**Children and young people in care have often experienced trauma and a lack of consistent adult relationships. The IV may be one of the constant positive adults they have in their life.**

**The IV is a unique role as the adult is matched with a particular child or young person to visit them once a month, build a positive relationship, spend time together doing things which the child or young person enjoys. This can be going for a bike ride, having a chat over a hot chocolate, watching a film together, visiting a museum - whatever the child is interested in and wants to do. Most visits naturally take place at weekends or in school holidays when children are free.**

## **What is the referral process?**

**To find out more about the Independent Visitor Service please contact our freephone helpline on 0800 012 1539 or email [IV@nepacs.co.uk](mailto:IV@nepacs.co.uk)**

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# **nepacs**

**Nepacs is a north east charity which has been around for 140 years. We support children and young people involved in the care system or impacted by adverse childhood experiences.**

**Our aim is to ensure a positive future for families in the north east who need support, including children and young people.**

