

The Wordinary:

a language guide for
professionals working
with young people.

The logo for "The Deal", featuring the word "The" in blue, a stylized icon of two hands shaking, and the word "Deal" in green.

The Deal

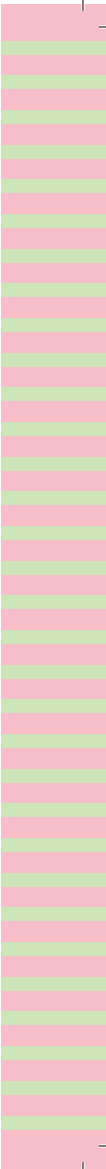


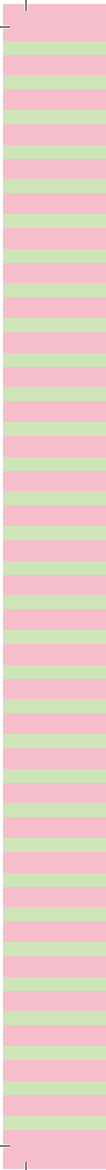
Why use it?

The Wordinary is based on the 'Language That Cares' document – a national project led by the fostering and adoption charity, TACT, to look at the language that professionals use about children in care.

We know that many of our staff are comfortable and confident working directly with children and young people and often consider the language you use.

This Wordinary is intended as a local guide for professionals who may not regularly work with young people and as a reminder for those who do, to help strengthen the positive and empowering conversations with our children, young people and their families.





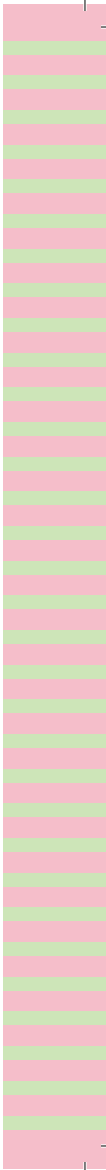
The Wordinary has been created with colleagues from the Children and Families directorate, the Deal Ambassadors and our own young people.

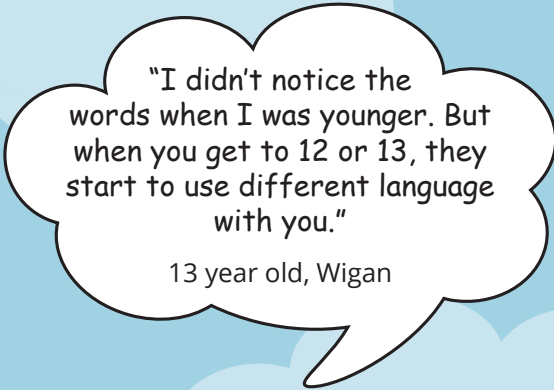
The aims of this document are:

- To embed The Deal Principles
- To remove barriers for understanding
- To empower our children and young people
- To help everyone have more positive conversations

The Wordinary is not intended to explain all the words used across children's services like a dictionary, but to generate discussion about the way we communicate and to help us engage more meaningfully with our children and young people.


There will always be a need for professionals to use legislative and correct terms in your professional dialogue with each other but The Wordinary is intended to remind all professionals to talk to children and young people in a clear and accessible way.





"I didn't notice the words when I was younger. But when you get to 12 or 13, they start to use different language with you."

13 year old, Wigan



"You say you want to treat people in care the same as people who aren't in care. Well you wouldn't call a home a placement."

15 year old, Hindley

"I was 11 and I was told I was going into a short-term foster placement in Bickershaw. I didn't know what this meant so I didn't understand what was going to happen to me. This is important for people who are like me and might not understand."

14 year old, Leigh

"To be fair I don't really have a problem with the words but I've been in care for over 10 years so I think I've just got used to it all."

17 year old, Golborne

"Nice and easy words are best for me."

8 year old, Shevington

A

Abscond

We prefer: Run away; Go missing.

Agencies

We prefer: Service.

Asylum seeker

We prefer: Asylum seeking young person;
Young person who needs our protection.

Attachment

We prefer: Relationship.

Attainment

We prefer: Grades, how well you have done.

B

Birth/Biological Parents

We prefer: Parents, Family, Mum or Dad.



C

Care leaver

We prefer: Young adult.

Care plan

We prefer: Future plans, My life plan, My plan.

Challenging Behaviour

We prefer: Struggling, Having a bad time, Having difficulties.

Close the case

We prefer: Given the child or young person the help that they needed.

Contact

We prefer: Making plans to see our family, Family meet up time, Family time, Seeing Dad, Mum, Grandma, Family etc.

Contact centre

We prefer: Family centre.

Corporate Parent

We prefer: Responsible for you.





D

Designated Teacher

We prefer: Teacher.

Difficult to place

We prefer: Can't find a home good enough for them.

Direct Work

We prefer: Working together, spend some quality time together.

Drop out

We prefer: Early school leaver.

E

Emotional Warmth

We prefer: Loving, caring.

Engage

We prefer: Get involved.



F

Fell pregnant

We prefer: Became pregnant.

Foster carers

We prefer: My family, Foster Mum, Foster Dad, People who care about me, My new family, The family that chose us, Aunty/Uncle, Their name.

Full potential

We prefer: Make sure I have every chance to reach my dreams.

G

Giving or served notice change to notice

We prefer: Home situation will change, Moving house.

Guidance and boundaries

We prefer: Rules.



H

High aspirations

We prefer: Good choices, Wanting the best for our children, Wanting a good future.

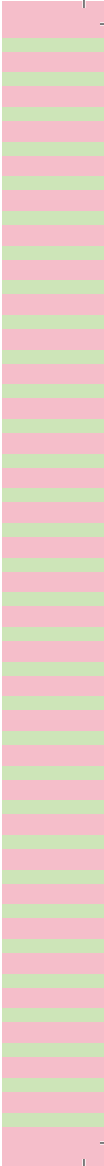
I

In care

We prefer: Another home away from home, Living with a different family in a different home, Living with different family members.

Isolation

We prefer: Reflection time, Thinking time.





L

LAC review

We prefer: My review meeting.

LAC visit

We prefer: Home visit, [Child's name] visit, Catch up.

LAC/Foster child

We prefer: Call children by their names, or say 'our children'.

Leaving care

We prefer: Moving on.

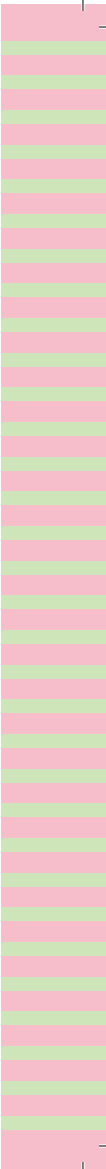
Liaise

We prefer: Talk to.

M

Moving placements

We prefer: Moving to a new house, A new chapter or fresh start.





N

NEET

We prefer: Unemployed or not in training or in education.

Network

We prefer: Groups.

O

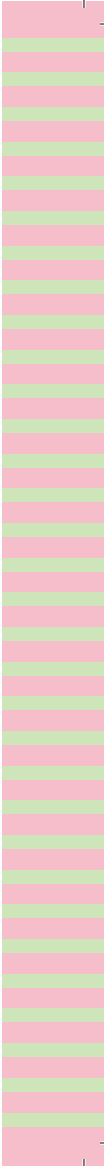
Outcomes

We prefer: Achievements, how well I have done.

P

PA

We prefer: Advisor, Personal Advisor, Guidance Advisor.





Pathway plan

We prefer: Future planning for 16+, Plan for when you leave care, Path to independence.

Peers

We prefer: Friends.

PEP

We prefer: School review, Education meeting, Education plan.

Permanence

We prefer: My home without disruptions.

Placement

We prefer: Your home, the house where you live.

Protective Factors

We prefer: Strengths, What's working well.

Provision

We prefer: Support.

Putative father

We prefer: Possible father.



R

Receiving services

We prefer: Getting help and support.

Reparation

We prefer: Help to put things right.

Reside

We prefer: Home, Current living situation.

Respite

We prefer: A break for children (not carers), Day out, Home away from home, Stay over, Sleepover, Time off for everyone.

Restrained

We prefer: Physical help to stay safe.

Reunification

We prefer: Going back to live with my family, Going back home.

Risk

We prefer: What the worries are, Concerns, The likelihood of future child maltreatment.

S

School readiness

We prefer: Having the skills you need to start school.

Service user / client

We prefer: Person's name.

Short term breaks

We prefer: Mini break, Holiday.

Siblings

We prefer: Our brothers and sisters, People who are related to me, Family.

Sick

We prefer: Unwell.

Social worker

We prefer: One to one worker, Someone who understands your family background and knows what you have been through.

Special needs

We prefer: Additionally supported, The name of the disability, Extra support.



Staff, Support worker, Unit manager

We prefer: Their name.

Stat visit/Statutory visit

We prefer: Coming to visit to see how we're doing.

Step Up / Step Down

We prefer: Step across.

Struggled

We prefer: Can't yet.

Support

We prefer: Help.

T

Therapy

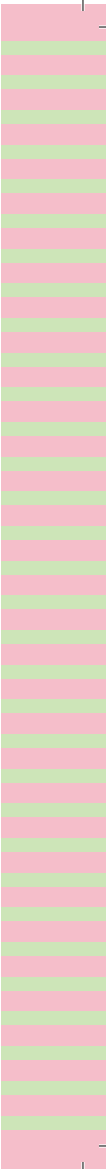
We prefer: Talking things through sessions,
Trying to make sense sessions,
Help to work things out.

Threshold

We prefer: Needs.

Transition

We prefer: Moving on, Preparing for change,
Next steps.



Abbreviations

For example;

CLA – Child Looked After

GLD – Good Level Development

PSP – Pastoral Development Plan

RDP – Review, Development and Planning meeting

SDF – Service Delivery Footprint

SGO – Special Guardianship Order

TAC – Team Around the Child

We prefer:

To use the full explanation.

Thank you for using
The Wordinary!