**Transcript for Unaccompanied child's guide to being a Child in Care in Kent**

This is a short film explaining what happens when you arrive in the UK and who will be there to support you. When you first arrive in the UK you meet immigration officers who ask you why you've come to the UK, they will take your photograph and fingerprints. Immigration officers work for a department at the UK Government called the Home Office. The Home Office decides if you can stay in the UK, Kent County Council doesn't decide. Maybe like your home country, the UK is made up of lots of different areas called Counties. Kent is the county where most children arrive because it is closest to France. Each County has its own council, which has children and young people in its care because their family cannot currently look after them. As you may not have family in the UK, or it has not yet been decided if you can live with your family in the UK, you are also a child in care to Kent County Council. In the UK a child is a person younger than 18 years old. As a child in care, you will be given a home. Your first home in the UK may not be where you will stay long term. This is because many young people like you are arriving to Kent, where there are not enough homes for all the young people to stay in. The type of home you will be given will depend on your circumstances. If you are younger than 16 years old, you will be given a home with a foster family to care for you. If you are male and 16 years or older you will stay in a reception centre, where workers will support you until you are ready to move to a house with other young people. If you are female and 16 years or older you will stay in a smaller center, where workers will support you until you are ready to move to a house with other young people. The difference is because many more boys than girls arrive to Kent, so reception centers are needed for boys. As a child in care, you have different people. Make sure you are well cared for. These people are: Foster Carers: if you are younger than 16 years old you will live in a home with a family and the adults in the family will be your foster carers. They will care for you as part of their family. Reception Centre Workers: if you are older than 16 years, you will live in a reception centre. The workers will support you to learn the skills needed to then live in a shared house and do most things for yourself. Social Workers: all children and young people in care have a social worker who will visit you at least once every six weeks. They are there to make sure you are safe, healthy and happy and that the plans for now and your future are followed. There are also Social Work Assistants who support Social Workers. Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO): IROs are very experienced Social Workers who are independent from your own Social Worker. They will meet with you at four weeks, three months and six months when you become a Child in Care. They will review the plans for now and your future to make sure they are the best thing for you and your social worker and those caring for you follow the plans. Doctors and Nurses: all Children in Care have a health assessment with a children's doctor. This is to make sure you are healthy and if you do have any health problems, you get the right treatment. Whilst you are a Child in Care You will have a health assessment every year. If at any time you become unwell and the people care for you can help you feel better, they will take you to a doctor or nurse for treatment. Teachers: all children and young people in the UK are entitled to free education. First you will meet teachers who will help you learn English. Once your English is good enough, you'll get to learn other subjects at school and college. You may need to wait for your permanent home before you can start at a school or college, but you can still learn English while you wait for this to start. Interpreters: even if you know some English, you have to listen to, and understand a lot of information when you become a Child in Care. Social Workers will make sure that you have an interpreter who speaks your first language at all of your meetings so you can understand and ask any questions you would like. Solicitors: when you first arrived in the UK, you told immigration officers why you had come here and needed to stay. Immigration officers work for a department of the UK government called the Home Office. The Home Office decides if you can stay in the UK, you'll be given a solicitor to help you ask for ‘asylum’, protection from harm, and to be allowed to stay in the UK. Your solicitor will meet with you and an interpreter to ask you questions about why you've come to the UK and why you need to stay. The solicitor will use your answers to help the Home Office decide if you can stay in the UK. Home Office workers: after several months of being in the UK, the Home Office will ask to meet with you, your solicitor and an interpreter to ask you questions about why you came to the UK and need to stay. The Home Office will then decide whether you can stay in the UK. The Home Office will decide this before you are 18 years old. If the Home Office decides you cannot stay in the UK, your solicitor will help you appeal the decision and it will be for a Court to decide if you can stay in the UK. In the UK, when a person becomes 18 years old, they are no longer a child and become an adult. If you are a Child in Care for longer than 13 weeks when you become 18 years old and if the Home Office is still deciding, or has decided, you can stay in the UK, you will continue to receive support from Kent County Council with your home, education or employment until you are 25 years old. Your Social Worker will be replaced with a personal advisor, who will give you this support. If you would like more information about anything in this film, please speak to your Reception Centre Worker or your Social Worker.