

### Evidence from a Child in Care attending a grammar school in the county and a Foster Carer

Unfortunately we were away for a short break when the meeting took place regarding Children in care and grammar school places.

I have a young lady with me who is in year ■ at grammar school. I feel a lot of children in care miss out on grammar school places through no fault of their own.

She attends XXX Grammar school in XXX. It was not her first choice; she wanted to go to XXX Grammar School.

She did not pass her Kent test, her school did appeal without luck. Her Social Worker was very supportive, but could do very little to resolve the situation.

The appeal to XXX failed so we appealed to XXX and my young Lady got a place. (it all sounds so very simple written down like this but, it took a lot of work and upset to get her there.)

XXX have been extremely supportive. My young Lady was the only girl, from her Primary school, to get a place there. She has joined after school sports club.

She attends dance lessons at XXX , she is a Brownie Helper and a Girl Guide.

She had showed interest in doing the Kent test and we knew that she was a very capable child, and that the only thing that was in her way was her past trauma and education not believing in her as we did.

She got some tutoring quite late on and we funded a course in the holidays for Kent Test practise. She had the capability but not the confidence. We bought 11+ test papers and spent hours going through them with her.

Unfortunately my young lady was not taken into care until she was 8 and had a lot of ground to make up. I think it is such a shame that the primary schools do not do more to help these children early on. Schools should not have low expectations of foster children. They have so much to give if given the chance.