

**A presentation from David Holmes, Chief Executive, BAAF**

**The Children in Care Symposium:  
Breaking the Cycle of Exclusion and  
Disadvantage  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Making Every Child in Care Matter –  
Delivering the Promises of Care Matters  
and the Children and Young Persons  
Bill**

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# What is it about care that *really* matters?

- I want someone to listen to me and to take part in decisions about my life
- I want someone on my side who believes in me and wants the best for me
- I want choice about where I live and for someone to help me understand about different placements
- I want to be able to stay where I am living and to be able to develop relationships with my carers which are going to continue and won't be disrupted
- I want contact with my family especially my siblings

Source: Response to *Care Matters* from Alliance for Child-Centred Care

# What is it about care that *really* matters? (2)

- I want to be given the same opportunities and chances as everyone else
- I need people who understand why I am sad or may kick off at times
- I need to be supported to do well in school
- I need to be helped to create my life beyond care and leave care behind
- I need to be able to make sense of what has happened in my life

Source: Response to *Care Matters* from Alliance for Child-Centred Care

# What will make the most difference?

- Having a historical, geographical and comparative perspective on care
- Not thinking about the care system in isolation
- Having confidence in what we do well
- Always being child-focused
- Changing attitudes to children in care
- Concentrating on the people who can make a difference as well as policy, legislation, guidance and pilots
- Ensuring the highest quality social work, focusing on the quality of care
- Focusing on making a difference right now, as well as in the future