

Building lasting relationships for children in care

Lifelong Links is for children and young people in care or care leavers.

Lifelong Links aims to find and bring together important people in the young person's life who care about them in a meeting called a family group conference. This could be former foster carers, teachers and friends as well as family members.

At the meeting you will be able to discuss with the young person what support you are able to offer to them, both now and in the future. This is then written down in a Lifelong Links plan so everyone knows what has been agreed. Providing it is safe, the plan should then be agreed by the young person's social worker. This plan then forms part of the young person's care plan and pathway plan as they become more independent, which is reviewed regularly at their child in care review meetings.



What is the process?

The person or local authority with parental responsibility must consent to the referral and the young person must also agree. If they change their mind at any point they can tell their social worker, carer or coordinator.



A Lifelong Links coordinator will;

1. Meet with the young person and facilitate activities to find out who their important people are who may care about them.
2. With the agreement of the young person, contact all the people identified (where safe to do so) and arrange to visit them.
3. Discuss with family and friends how they may be able to support the young person.
4. In consultation with the young person, invite family and friends to the Lifelong Links family group conference.

What is the Purpose of Lifelong Links Family Group Conference? Why is it important?

To make a Lifelong Links plan so the young person;

- Has lasting relationships with people upon which they can depend, reducing isolation and having a positive impact on their emotional well-being and mental health which improves placement stability and reduces risk taking behaviours.
- Enable them to learn more about their history and feel a stronger sense of identity.
- Have people they can rely on for practical and emotional support. This could be telephone calls, cards, outings, emails, invites to family events, holidays etc.

For more information access our website lbbd.gov.uk/lifelong-links or contact the Lifelong Links lead on lifelonglinks@lbbd.gov.uk
020 8270 6968

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