

Contact us

LIFELONG LINKS/FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE TEAM

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FAMILY GROUP CONFERCING

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Name of Co-ordinator.

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Lifelong Links

COVENTRY

Building lasting relationships for children in care



A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Lifelong Links is an exciting project for young people in care.

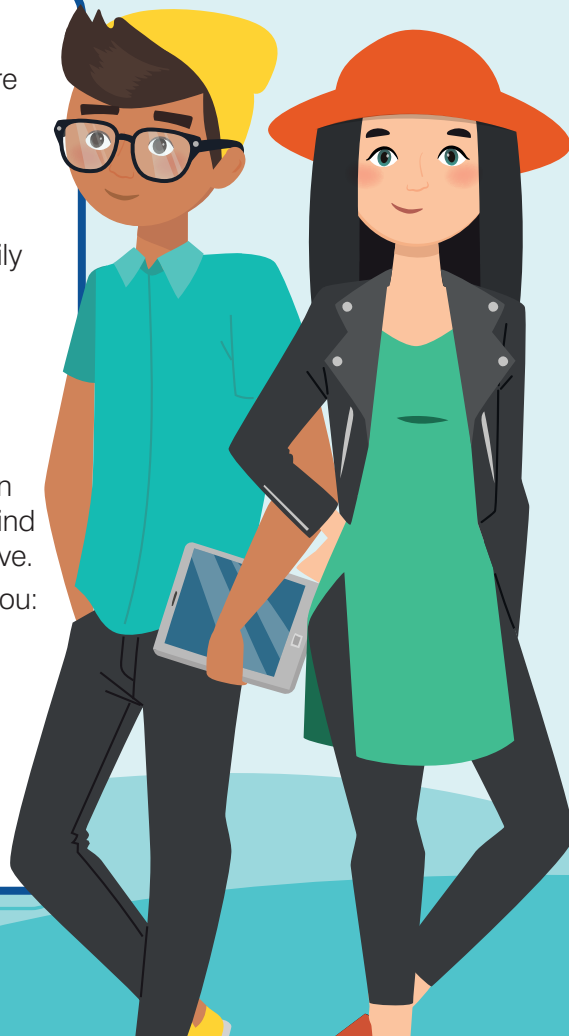
Lifelong Links aims to build lasting relationships for young people in care in Coventry. It helps bring together people you want to connect with. These can be people you know well but have not seen in a while (like a teacher or neighbour) or even a family member you have not met yet.

HOW CAN IT HELP ME?

We can find family and friends you want to connect with and who you can turn to for support. You can learn more about your family history and find answer to the questions you may have.

You are eligible for Lifelong Links if you:

1. Are under 18
2. Have been in care for more than six months and are not planning to return to the care of family
3. Are accommodated under section 20 or a full care order



THE PURPOSE OF LIFELONG LINKS FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE

Those present at the family group conference will support you to make a plan so you:

- Have lasting relationships you can depend on
- It is clear to everyone who is responsible for staying in touch and how this will happen, so there is no confusion
- Learn more about your history and develop a stronger sense of identity
- Have people to turn to for practical and emotional support. This could be by being invited to family events, holidays, having telephone calls, sending emails, cards, going on outings or getting support with work experience

Remember it is your choice.

Lifelong links will only happen with your agreement and, if you change your mind tell your carer, social worker or Lifelong Links co-ordinator.

WHO ATTENDS THE LIFELONG LINKS FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

This will vary but usually includes you, family members you have chosen to be there (and others who care about you), the social worker (others you want to connect with), your foster carer or residential carer, the Lifelong Links co-ordinator and possibly an advocate for you. The family group conference includes some private time which practitioners do not attend.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

The social worker should work with you and your support network to ensure that the plan you make is carried out and that it is safe. It will form part of your care plan and eventually your pathway plan as you become more independent. A family group conference review should be offered to you and your support network, to check that the plan is working. The plan should also be regularly reviewed by your Independent Reviewing Officer and social worker.