

Contact us

LIFELONG LINKS/FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE TEAM

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FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING

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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 PROFESSIONALS



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 the young person knows well but have not seen in a while (like a teacher or neighbour) or even a family member they have not met yet.

HOW CAN IT HELP?

We can find family and friends they want to connect with and who they can turn to for support. They can learn more about their family history and find answers to the questions they 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 the young person to make a plan so they:

- Have lasting relationships they 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 their 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 their choice.

Lifelong Links will only happen with their agreement and, if they change their mind they should tell their carer, social worker or Lifelong Links co-ordinator.

WHO ATTENDS THE LIFELONG LINKS FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

This will vary but usually includes the young person, family members they have chosen to be there (and others who care about them), the social worker (others they want to connect with), their foster carer or residential carer, the Lifelong Links co-ordinator and possibly an advocate for them. 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 the young person and their support network to ensure that the plan they make is carried out and that it is safe. It will form part of their care plan and eventually their pathway plan as they become more independent. A family group conference review should be offered to them and their support network, to check that the plan is working. The plan should also be regularly reviewed by their Independent Reviewing Officer and social worker.