

**Who can LL be offered to?** This service can be offered to any child/young person 8 years old and above.

**How to contact us:** Speak to your P.A. or social worker. For enquires, questions and referrals or to speak to a member of the team please do not hesitate to contact us via the team mailbox:

[WandsworthLINKS@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:WandsworthLINKS@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

**A young person involved in Lifelong Links said:**

*'Sometimes old memories from your past get a little blurry. Lifelong Links has given me a chance to reconnect, remember, learn and chat about previous situations whilst living in care.'*

*'This has given me a better insight to how and why some decisions were made and share with my workers the effects these decisions had on me as a young person.'*

## Wandsworth L.I.N.K.S.

### Lifelong Links

A project with the aim of building positive and lasting support networks for children in the care system and for care leavers.

Our Lifelong Links service is also known as **'Alfie's Project'** having been inspired by Alfie, a Wandsworth young person.

**Quote from Alfie:** *'Everybody in care and care leavers should do Lifelong Links.... If you do it, you won't regret it.'*



**What is LL?** A service for children and young people in care or with care experience, to help connect with family members and professionals to build a positive support network. This can include people you have known well, but haven't seen for a while, relatives you have never met, including parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles and former foster carers, social workers, teachers or neighbours.  
LL was Developed by the **Family Rights Group**.

**How can LL help me?**

- 1. By finding family and friends, you can learn more about your family history.
- 2. By bringing together people into your network you can receive life-lasting support

**What can I be offered?** This can vary from receiving cards at Christmas and Birthdays, having open invitations to Sunday dinner, to meeting with people regularly for activities such as, going to a museum, sharing a meal, or getting support with life skills such as, cooking, budgeting etc.

**How does LL work?** Once you decide that LL is for you, your Social Worker, Personal Advisor (PA) or Independent Reviewing Office (IRO) will send a referral to us and the LL Coordinator will be allocated to start the work with you.

LL can only start if you agree to do so. If you are under 18, parental consent either from a parent or the Local Authority is required to begin the work.

You can pause or withdraw from the process at any point.

**What will the LL Coordinator do?**

- 1. Work closely with you to learn about people important to you and make contact with them
- 2. Provide regular updates on the progress of the work.
- 3. Work closely with your Social Worker or Personal Advisor (P.A.) to make sure that all identified contacts are safe.
- 4. Assist you with meeting and talking to relatives, family members and professionals.
- 5. Help to set up and facilitate a LL Family Group Conference.

**What happens at the Family Group Conference (FGC)?**

When everyone you wish has been contacted, they will be brought together to get to know you better and learn about what you need. The aim of this meeting is to draw up a plan to identify who is going to support you, and how. After the FGC, your Social Worker or PA will continue to work with you and your support network, making sure that the LL Plan is included in your care or pathway plan and reviewed when appropriate.

**Before we start the work we will invite you to a Planning Meeting, with your social worker or PA, and foster carer. If you have any questions write them down here and we will try to answer them at that meeting.**

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