

How to contact us/make a referral: For all enquires, questions and referrals or to speak to a member of the team please don't hesitate to contact us via the team mailbox

WandsworthLINKS@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Groupwork: enquire about groups running, request a referral form. We will send you group information and on receipt of a completed referral form we will contact you.

Lifelong Links: enquire about the service, request a referral form and on receipt of a completed form staff will contact you to set up a case discussion and plan next steps.

Family Group Conferences: access the child/young person's record on **MOSAIC**. Go to START and follow the link to the Family Group Conference referral. Staff will contact you.

Quotes

A mother who attended HALT domestic abuse group

"I feel stronger by attending group, sometimes it is hard to talk about what I am going through but I feel better, it's a relief when I talk about it."

A family who attended an FGC

"As a family we now have a plan that will support my sister and her children. She is no longer alone".

A young person who attended Lifelong Links

"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.

3 Projects under 1 Roof

With the aim of improving outcomes for children, young people, parents and carers through direct work

- **Groupwork**
- **Family Group Conferences**
- **Lifelong Links**



Groupwork

Delivering parenting and domestic abuse groups for parents, carers, and children in Wandsworth, in person and virtually, including evening groups.

Co-ordinated and run by a dedicated team in partnership with colleagues.

- **Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities (SFSC):** 13 week inclusive evidence-based parenting group for all parents/carers of children 0 - 18
- **HALT:** 12 week face to face group for mothers affected by domestic abuse and 6 week virtual evening HALT group
- **HALT for children:** 6 week group for children affected by domestic abuse - delivered in schools
- **Community Group Programme (CGP):** 12 week group for children affected by domestic abuse
- **Caring Dads:** 17 week child centred evening group for fathers who have abused, neglected, or exposed their children to domestic abuse
- **Dads Place:** 12 week evening group to meet other fathers, share experiences, gain support, and manage the challenges of parenting
- **Mothers Like Me (MLM):** 12 week group for mothers who have at least one child in care and **MLM drop in** – a weekly drop in



Family Group Conferences (FGCs)

Family Group Conferences are shared decision-making family meetings.

They are family led, with family members, their network, and professionals attending a meeting, facilitated by an independent FGC coordinator. The aim is for families to discuss problems and find their own solutions, and with support to draw up a safe and realistic plan to ensure children remain safely in their parents' care.

FGCs can take place online or face to face, at times suitable for the families including evenings and weekends

Lifelong Links

Lifelong Links is a service that increases and builds positive, lifelong support networks for children in the care system and for care leavers.

An independent Lifelong Links Coordinator works with a child/young adult to find out who is important to them and who they would like to be in touch with. The Coordinator searches for these people, using a variety of tools and techniques. They bring a network together at a Lifelong Links family group conference to make a plan with and for the child, which the local authority supports to ensure these relationships continue to grow.

Inspired by Alfie, a young person in Wandsworth, our Lifelong Links service is also known as '**Alfie's Project**'.

Quote from Alfie

"Everybody in care and care leavers should do Lifelong Links.... If you do it, you won't regret it."

(Oct.2022)