

## What is the purpose of Lifelong links?

- increase the number of supportive, lasting relationships on which young people can depend. It could be invites to family events, holidays, telephone calls, emails, cards, outings, work experience.
- improve emotional and mental wellbeing.
- understand more about their own history giving a stronger sense of identity.

## Involvement in lifelong links can:

- Reduce harmful risky behaviours including substance misuse, self-harm, and criminal activity.
- improve educational engagement and attainment.
- improve long term outcomes for children leaving care including an increase in training and employment.
- Reduce isolation.
- Reduce the potential for homelessness.

“Without Lifelong Links there wouldn't have been the support for her to meet her family.”

**Foster carer**

**Interested or want to make a referral  
please contact the Lifelong Links Manager at  
[Lifelonglinks@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Lifelonglinks@islington.gov.uk)**

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotope or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

# Lifelong Links Service for Islington young people



Lifelong links is a new and exciting project for children and young people aged 14 – 25 who are in care or care leavers. It is a great way of creating a positive, lasting support network to help them during their time in care and into adulthood. This service is part of the Islington Family Group Conference Service.



Funded by  
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## What is Lifelong Links?

Lifelong Links aims to find family members and other people who care about the child/young person such as former foster carers, teachers, or family friends. These people are brought together in a meeting called a family group conference. At this meeting they can talk with the young person about what support they are able to offer, both now and in the future. This is written down into a plan so that everybody knows exactly what they are doing. The plan should be agreed by the young person's worker providing it is safe.



“Before, I had no contact for 16 years with my dad’s family at all. Now I can ring up and go round for a cup of tea and it’s like I’ve always known them”

Young person

## What is the process?

- Once it is decided that the Lifelong Links is right for a young person, they are allocated a Lifelong Links coordinator.
- Careful planning with young person and carer, includes objectives, restraints or risks.
- Co-ordinator meets with the young person and identifies all the key people who may care about them.
- Co-ordinator contacts the key people and discusses with them how they may be able to support the young person.
- In consultation with the young person the co-ordinator invites family and friends to the Family Group Conference.
- A plan is made with the network and becomes part of the young person's care plan/ pathway plan.

## What happens at a Lifelong Links Family Group Conference?

The co-ordinator will make sure the meeting goes smoothly. There are 3 parts to a Lifelong Links Family Group Conference.



### FGC Information giving

The referrer will share some background and the purpose of the FGC.



### Private family time

Young person and network discuss and plan the support, referrer and coordinator leave the meeting.



### Presenting and agreeing the plan

An opportunity for everyone to be clear about the plan and what they are agreeing to and to ensure it is safe for the young person.