

LIFELONG LINKS FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Lifelong Links is an exciting project for children and young people in care. Lifelong Links aims to find family members and other people who care about them such as former foster carers, teachers, or family friends. These people are brought together in a family group conference. At the conference 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 is then agreed by the young person's social worker providing it is safe.

A young person is allocated a Lifelong Links coordinator. The coordinator is independent and impartial and is supervised by a Team manager who has no involvement in case decision making. The person or local authority with parental responsibility for the young person must consent to the referral. The young person must also agree.

The Lifelong Links coordinator will:

- Meet with the young person and work with them to find all the people who may care about them.
- With the agreement of the young person, contacts all the people identified (where safe) and arranges to visit them.
- Discuss with the family and friends how they may be able to support the young person.
- In consultation with the young person, invite family and friends to the Lifelong Links family group conference.

LIFELONG LINKS

A Young Person is identified as a potential candidate for Lifelong Links



Social Worker discusses referral with Lifelong Links Lead



Social Worker gains consent / agreement to go ahead with referral

1. Agreement from Young Person
2. Consent from agency / person with parental responsibility



Referral form completed by social worker and submitted to
FGCReferrals@nelincs.gov.uk



Case allocated to Lifelong Links FGC Coordinator

Planning Meeting Held:

1. Social Worker /SW Supervisor/ Foster Carer
2. FGC Coordinator / FGC Manager

What you need to know about the Lifelong Links -The Planning Meeting

So everyone is clear about what will happen and what needs to happen a Planning Meeting must be held before the referral is progressed and this needs to involve Lifelong Links FGC Coordinator, FGC Manager, Social Worker and Team Manager, Foster Carer (other relevant people if necessary).

The following must be considered:

1. Key objectives
2. Information that the referrer will need to provide to the family
3. Any constraints/ risk elements
4. Participation and support needs of young person and how they will be assisted to prepare for the Lifelong Links work including offer of an advocate
5. Support needs of the young person in care
6. Any ongoing consent issues
7. Next steps, including where to start mapping
8. Chronology needs to be provided

Who attends the Lifelong Links family group conference?

Anyone could feature in the FGC including: neighbours, family friends, ex professionals, community members, the social worker (and other professionals who may be involved), the foster or residential carer, the Lifelong Links coordinator and possibly an advocate for the young person. The family group conference includes some private time which practitioners do not attend.

What happens after the family group conference?

The social worker should continue to work with the young person and their network to ensure that the plan is carried out and that it is safe. It will form part of the young person's Care Plan and eventually their pathway plan as they become more independent. A family group conference review should be offered to the young person and their support network to check that the plan is working. The plan should also be regularly reviewed after review meetings.

For more information about Lifelong Links Family Group Conference or to discuss making a referral contact us at FGCReferrals.gov.uk

For further information go to: www.frg.org.uk

