



# Lifelong Links

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Service development  
package

2024/2025



 **Lifelong  
Links**®

# Lifelong Links

## The impact so far

Lifelong Links is an innovation of Family Rights Group which we have continued to develop since we first trialled the approach in 2017. We are the only provider of Lifelong Links training, have introduced and run the quality assurance accreditation programme for Lifelong Links services and assist local authorities to set up and establish a Lifelong Links service.

Lifelong Links was independently evaluated over three years (2017-20) by Oxford University, with an additional one year longitudinal evaluation (2020-21). The evaluations found:

- **A significant improvement on the mental health and well-being** of young people who participated in Lifelong Links as measured by SDQ scores.<sup>1</sup>
- **78% children and young people felt an improved sense of identity.**
- **74% of children and young people were in the same home a year after Lifelong Links** compared with 41% of young people in the comparator group, which is considered a statistically significant positive impact.
- **Value for money:** Cost benefit analysis showed a return on investment of monetisable outcomes is £1.02 for every £1 spent.

In 2022 Lifelong Links was recommended in the final report of the independent review of children's social care. **"All local authorities should have skilled family finding support equivalent to or exceeding, the work of Lifelong Links in place by 2024 at the very latest."**<sup>2</sup>

Other more recent findings have shown the long-term impact, with young care-experienced people who live in areas which offer Lifelong Links 10% less likely to become homeless when they leave care. Evaluations carried out by local authorities including Hertfordshire County Council demonstrate that Lifelong Links helps save money by averting care costs – over £830,000 year on year in Hertfordshire during 2021/22 alone.

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Lifelong Links helps you get answers to questions you had for years. It is life changing, I don't think anyone would regret doing it.

Alfie, young person who participated in Lifelong Links



<sup>1</sup> Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores, improved year on year. Average SDQ scores the year before children and young people took part in Lifelong Links were 16.77 but had fallen to 12.44 three years after they had started participating in Lifelong Links (note a reduction in score is a sign of improvement).

<sup>2</sup> <https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/final-report/>

# Lifelong Links

## Overview of support



### One to one support

Provided by Family Rights Group's experienced team to support the introduction and ongoing implementation of Lifelong Links. This includes working with children's services' senior management, team leaders, practitioners and other relevant people to consider the values of Lifelong Links and how to ensure the structures, policies, procedures and practices best enable the work to flourish.



### Lifelong Links training

Family Rights Group is the only organisation that delivers Lifelong Links coordinator training. This course is for family group conference coordinators to enable them to develop the necessary skills to become a Lifelong Links coordinator.

This interactive course is delivered virtually over three days.



### Peer support

Family Rights Group facilitate and run a number of opportunities for Lifelong Links coordinators and service managers from across all Lifelong Links local authorities to meet virtually and discuss practice, share ideas, celebrate success and support and learn from each other.

- Lifelong Links practice learning sets (three times a year) for coordinators.
- Lifelong Links managers' meetings (every 6 weeks).



### Lifelong Links resources

Access to the up-to-date Lifelong Links toolkit that sets out how to establish and sustain a Lifelong Links service. Organisations will also have access to new or updated films, guides and templates. Includes:

- Cost benefit analysis template
- Circles



### Service accreditation

Family Rights Group is the leading authority on Lifelong Links & family group conferences and has been at the forefront of developing and promoting high standards of practice for both services.

We run separate quality assurance accreditation programmes for Lifelong Links & family group conference services. Accreditation lasts for three years.



### Bespoke impact report

Family Rights Group will provide participating authorities with a bespoke annual impact report which will include analysis of their own data. It will be based on anonymised practice summaries for each child and the quarterly reports submitted by each local authority.

# Support packages

	SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE	ACCREDITED SERVICE PACKAGE *
ACCESS TO LIFELONG LINKS RESOURCES	✓	✓
ACCESS TO CIRCLES	✓	✓
1 TO 1 SUPPORT FROM DEDICATED LIFELONG LINKS PRACTICE ADVISER	UP TO 21 HOURS OF SUPPORT	UP TO 3 HOURS OF SUPPORT
ACCESS TO PRACTICE LEARNING SETS	✓	✓
ACCESS TO LIFELONG LINKS MANAGERS' MEETINGS	✓	✓
BESPOKE IMPACT REPORT	✓	✓
LIFELONG LINKS SERVICE ACCREDITATION	✓ **	✗
COST	£5250	COST: £2625

\*This package is only available to local authorities with an accredited Lifelong Links service. Accredited services can still access the service development package where more one to one support is available.

\*\* Discount available if your Lifelong Links service is already accredited

ADDITIONAL SERVICES	
MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL FGC & LIFELONG LINKS NETWORK	SMALL GROUP MEMBERSHIP: £240 (less than 40 FGCs a year) MEDIUM GROUP MEMBERSHIP: £420 (40 to 99 FGCs a year) LARGE GROUP MEMBERSHIP: £600 (over 99 FGCs a year)
FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE COORDINATOR TRAINING	£550 per person ***
LIFELONG LINKS COORDINATOR TRAINING	£675 per person ***

\*\*\* 10% discount available for FGC & Lifelong Links Network members

Consultancy support, including training, will all be conducted online. Face to face support or attendance at in person meetings can be discussed on a case by case basis. This will incur an additional charge.

Please contact your Lifelong Links practice adviser should you wish to go forward with anything offered within this brochure.