

Information sheet for children & young people:

Building a family or important person network



**England
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Project**
*Aligning the organisation
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In Norfolk we want to make sure that no looked after child or care leaver feels like they have no one except their social worker/PA or foster carer to turn to. We want to make sure that you are encouraged to think about family members or other people from your past (your network) that you would like to have a relationship with and support you to try and get back in contact with them.

Why is it important?

1. Every child/young person has a family and/or network and they can be found if we try.
2. A good relationship with your family or network helps you develop and maintain a sense of belonging

How does it work?

Your foster carer or social care worker will help you map out people that are important to you but that you don't see anymore. They will try and find out their contact details and contact them to see if they would like to have a conversation about being part of your network of support. If all agree, they will be invited to a meeting to talk about how they could be more involved, for example, providing a shoulder to lean on, give you a helping hand or someone to go to for advice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the meetings be informal?

Yes, absolutely. Timings, venue, refreshments will be planned with you

What if there are concerns that someone I want to see is unsafe?

The risks will be explored by your social worker and other adults that know the person well: we will tell you what we are worried about and what needs to happen. Your safety is the most important thing and if there are concerns that someone you want to see may not be safe, we will explain this to you so that you understand. We will look at this again every so often as sometimes situations and people change.

What will happen if the person I would like to see/have in my network, doesn't want to see me?

We can't force anyone to agree to be part of your network, sometimes people need more time and may change their minds in the future. If this happens we will work with you to try and find other people who are important to you to make sure you have a strong network.



What if the person I want to see lives too far away?

If the person lives too far away to see you very often, we will work with you to find other ways to stay in contact between visits, this could be letters, e-mails, phone calls or skype.

