

# Forever networks- Information sheet for children & young people

In Norfolk we want to make sure that no looked after child leaves care without a forever network around them. These are people who really care about you, are not paid to be a professional in your life, and are able to stay in touch with you into your adulthood. Your forever network should support your identity and sense of belonging. Most of all they should be people that can provide you with helpful advice, practical or emotional support, and can be there for you in an ongoing way when you need them.

## How does it work?

Your foster carer or social care worker will help you map out people that are important to you or could be important to you, including people you don't see anymore and even people you are related to but have never met. 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 worker and other adults that know the person well. 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 and supportive 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 through social media, letters, e-mails, phone or video calls.