

LIFE STORY WORK (LSW) FRAMEWORK

February 2021

1. For each child long term looked after we will be clear about the current status of life story work . Each social worker will establish
 - The account the child and carer has about why they are in care and their journey in care
 - whether the child has a CPR
 - whether they have a life story book
 - if so when the book was completed
 - if the child was part of the LSW (e.g. legacy adoption cases form 2017)
 - any glaring problems with the book (e.g. inappropriate wording x 2)
 - whether LSW is currently under way ,
 - who is leading the LSW (social worker, external worker)
 - if LSW is not appropriate at the moment (and why e.g. considering placement move, school move, together or apart , therapy)
 - where their memories are kept
 - A clear summary will be on Care Director

2. Ensure memories are not lost including;
 - Implementing a LSW section on the child's file in Care Director
 - Scanning any existing LSW books to child's file
 - Giving LSW books to long term matched carers (with support and advice)
 - Establishing memory boxes for every child who comes into care
 - Ensure photographs are not lost through carers/residential providers making an annual physical photograph album from phone photos. To include photographs from the Family Time team

3. For each child long term looked after there will be a LSW planning meeting attended by
 - Social worker
 - SW's supervisor
 - Supervising social work /residential provider
 - Carer
 - IRO
 - LSW work lead
 - Virtual school/Designated teacher
 - CLA mental health practitioner when appropriate
 - TAMHS/CAMHS worker when appropriate

This meeting will consider if the child is ready for LSW and what that will look like including:

- If it so not the right time a date when the group will meet again to discuss (e.g. when matching complete)
- The form the work should take at the moment – light touch incorporated into direct work sessions or clear programme of planned sessions
- If planned sessions are right for the child agree timetable and deadlines
- If planned sessions are agreed build in feedback and support to carers
- If planned session are agreed build in de-briefs and support for social workers
- If there is an urgency to the work or it is particularly complex work then the meeting can recommend the social worker completes a care panel request for an external facilitator
- Providing a tool box to the social worker (e.g. worksheets, fidget objects)
- If a child refuses LSW there will be a clear decliner pathway to be managed by the social worker