

REQUEST	14152 - Life Story work	RESPONSE
	<p>Please answer specifically in relation to children with a plan of adoption / placed for adoption</p> <p>Do you have a policy/procedure in relation to life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state if work is underway to develop a policy/procedure.</p> <p>Do you have guidance available for practitioners to support them in life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. Do you provide practice tools to support practitioners with life story work? If yes, please describe them or provide examples. If no, explain how practitioners are supported with this work.</p>	<p>In respect of children with a plan of adoption we have a shared policy and guidance within the Regional Adoption Agency in respect of Life Story Work. Please see attached link</p> <p>https://www.proceduresonline.com/togetherforadoption/teams.html</p> <p>Life Story Work begins with Words and Pictures tool, to help child understand reasons why they are in care. Following decision that adoption is in their best interest work commences to prepare them for the transfer to their adoptive family.</p> <p>Direct work tools are provided for social workers – we use books, individual personal stories, toys and games, puppets, art and craft houses etc to help children understand their journey to adoption. Social workers also have access to training in respect of Direct work with children.</p> <p>Every child who is adopted has a life book provided to enable them to have an age-appropriate understanding of their plan. They are also provided with a later life letter so that adoptive parents can share this with them when they feel it is the appropriate time. Copies of life book and Later life letters are held on file.</p> <p>If in some cases therapeutic life story work is required this is accessed via the Adoption Support Fund or via the regional adoption agency post adoption support team.</p>
	<p>Please answer specifically in relation to children with a plan of long-term foster-care including children placed with family or friends / placed in residential homes / return to parents has been ruled out</p> <p>Do you have a policy/procedure in relation to life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state if work is underway to develop a policy/procedure.</p> <p>Do you have guidance available for practitioners to support them in life story work? If yes, please provide a copy.</p> <p>Do you provide practice tools to support practitioners with life story work? If yes, please describe them or provide examples. If no, explain how practitioners are supported with this work.</p> <p>Do you provide later life letters to care experienced young people (Care Leavers)? If yes, at what age are they provided? Please answer specifically in relation to children who are Child in Need / Child Protection</p>	<p>We have tabs on LL to record life story work and life story books which enable us to see who has had life story work. We are trying to develop a way of tracking and measuring this.</p> <p>Our Children in Care Council have been preparing a piece of work on memory boxes which all foster carers support children in their care to keep and are transferred if children need to move.</p> <p>We do have a Life Story Work Briefing note that has been shared at Staff Briefings.</p> <p>We are currently further developing this and identifying tools for practitioners to use.</p> <p>There is an expectation that Later Life Letters are prepared for young people at the point of transition from the locality teams to children in care and again when they are leaving care.</p> <p>Practice examples are shared to encourage use.</p>

<p>Do you undertake life story work with children who are classed as children in need / children subject to a child protection plan? If yes, do you have a policy/procedure in relation to life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state if work is underway to develop a policy/procedure. If yes, do you have guidance available for practitioners to support them in life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If yes, do you provide practice tools to support practitioners with life story work? If yes, please describe them or provide examples.</p>	<p>Life story work would not be completed with children in CIN or CP but direct work and words and pictures would be completed to help support them understand their lived experiences and the role of the SW and interventions from the agencies working with them. This is also informed to capture the child's wishes and feelings to inform ongoing care planning and interventions.</p> <p>Direct work tools are provided for social workers – we use books, individual personal stories, toys and games, puppets, art and craft houses etc to help children have insight into their journey. Social workers also have access to training in respect of Direct work with children</p>
<p>Please answer specifically in relation to children involved in the Public Law Outline framework</p> <p>Do you undertake life story work with children who you are engaged with via the Public Law Outline framework? If yes, do you have a policy/procedure in relation to life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state if work is underway to develop a policy/procedure. If yes, do you have guidance available for practitioners to support them in life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If yes, do you provide practice tools to support practitioners with life story work? If yes, please describe them or provide examples.</p>	<p>This would be the same for children who are in PLO and then if the decision is made for proceedings to commence life story work would start at this time</p>
<p>Please answer specifically in relation to children with a Permanence Order (Special Guardianship / Child Arrangement)</p> <p>Do you undertake life story work with children who you are engaged with who are subject to a permanence order via a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order if the child is living outside of parental care? If yes, do you have a policy/procedure in relation to life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state if work is underway to develop a policy/procedure. If yes, do you have guidance available for practitioners to support them in life story work? If yes, please provide a copy. If yes, do you provide practice tools to support practitioners with life story work? If yes, please describe them or provide examples.</p>	<p>Yes No N/a</p>
<p>Please answer specifically in relation to children in a Private Fostering arrangement</p> <p>Do you undertake any life story work for children you are engaged with via the private fostering regulations? If yes, please provide details.</p> <p>Please answer in relation to all categories above</p>	<p>Life story work would not be completed with children who are residing in a PF arrangement unless it was felt that this would be appropriate and would be only in unique circumstances. However, direct work would be completed to help support them understand their lived experiences and the role of the SW and interventions from the agencies working with them. This is also informed to capture the child's wishes and feelings to inform ongoing care planning and interventions.</p> <p>Direct work tools are provided for social workers – we use books, individual personal stories, toys and games, puppets, art and craft houses etc to help children have insight into their journey. Social workers also have access to training in respect of Direct work with children</p>

Do you have a framework in place to track performance in relation to life story work?

If yes, please provide a copy / detail.

Do you have any internally developed performance indicators in relation to completion of life story work?

If yes, please provide the performance indicators that are internally reported on.

Do you have a quality assurance framework which specifically incorporates life story work? If yes, please provide a copy.

If no, explain how the quality of life story work is monitored within your Local Authority.

Please state who your life story work provider is?

If you do not have a life story work provider, please explain how this is managed within your local authority.

Does your local authority provide life story work training for practitioners?

If yes, please provide details including whether this is provided internally or commissioned.

If no, how do you support practitioners in developing their skills in engaging children and young people in life story work.

How many Therapeutic Practitioners does your organization employ directly?

If none, please state.

If you do employ directly, how many do you have (full-time equivalent) and what percentage of their time is dedicated to engaging children specifically with life story work?

If yes above, who provides the Therapeutic Practitioners with clinical supervision?

Please indicate if you would be willing to engage in a brief survey sent by Blue Cabin to further explore life story work in your local authority? Yes / No (please click on the following link to the Blue Cabin website for information regarding our organisation) www.wearebluecabin.com

Finally, if this FOI has created some level of curiosity, we would really encourage you to sign up to our newsletter

Performance in terms of life story work is evaluated via thematic audit activity.

There are no internally developed performance indicators in relation to the completion of life story work.

The quality assurance framework does not specifically reference life story work; however, it does reference a thematic audit calendar. Life story work features within this internal thematic audit calendar, managed by the Quality Assurance and Practice Development Unit.

Life story work training is delivered via our own senior management team. The next date of delivery will be w/c 21st Nov.

Internally

One

External supervision