

Bridge the Gap Events

Connect | Explore | Create

Background

The Review recently published the [Case for Change](#), which sets out our early thinking on some of the biggest challenges within the children's social care system. This reflects the evidence and advice we have received, and the hundreds of individuals with lived experience of children's social care who we have spoken to so far. We are very grateful for all the different charities, networks and groups that have supported us with this.

As we move forward into the next stage of the review, we want to bring people together through a series of discussions to help us think about how we come up with solutions and can support all children to grow up in loving, safe and stable homes.

Overview

Bridge the Gap is a series of events where we are inviting individuals with lived experience and professionals within children's social care to reflect on the Case for Change, explore in depth the key issues within the children's social care system and co-create solutions with us in a democratic and open space.

We will be holding a launch event 'Connect' followed by a series of themed 'Explore' sessions, which people will choose to attend based on their background and experiences. The final event 'Create' will bring everyone back together in an Open Space to discuss and consolidate themes identified in the previous sessions. This will provide participants with different experiences of children's social care an opportunity to discuss creative ideas and solutions for how they want the system to look and feel in the future.



Why should you attend?

- Share your experience in a safe space and help us think about potential solutions to the biggest problems within children’s social care.
- Bring your unique perspective of children’s social care, and support others to share their story who may have a similar experience to you.
- Be part of the wider community who have an interest in improving the children’s social care system.

Who will be involved?

These events will be mainly attended by those with lived experience of children’s social care, but we will have a specific themed session for social workers within the system too. We are inviting the following participants to take part in these events:

- Birth Parents
- Foster Carers
- Kinship Carers
- Adoptive Parents
- Care Experienced Young People (16+)
- Care Experienced Adults
- Social Work Practitioners

What support will be available?

The review has partnered with the NSPCC helpline and Childline to provide support to everyone participating in the review, and this will be available for anyone who takes part in these events.

We will also be inviting different charities, networks, and groups along with their support teams, but participants can also bring someone they trust for moral support if they would prefer.

Event Schedule

Theme	Event	Date & Time	Participants
Connect	Bridge the Gap – Launch Event	26 th August at 12:00 – 15:00	All Participants
Explore	Themed Session for Kinship Carers, Foster Carers & Adoptive Parents	9 th September at 12:00 – 15:00	Kinship Carers, Foster Carers, and Adoptive Parents
Explore	Themed Session for Care Experienced Young People (16+) and Adults*	16 th September at 12:00 – 15:00	Care Experienced Young People (16+), and Adults
Explore	Themed Session for Birth Parents	23 rd September at 12:00 – 15:00	Birth Parents
Explore	Themed Session for Professionals	27 th September at 12:00 – 15:00	Social Work Professionals
Create	Bridge the Gap – Final Event	14 th October at 11:00 – 15:00	All Participants

* We are holding separate engagement events for children and young people under 16.

How do I get involved?

If you want to be part of the Bridge the Gap, complete our short [expression of interest form](#) before Friday 20th August and we will send you more information about the events.