

What do other people say about Sharing Stories?

"I didn't want to speak to the social worker after everything that had happened but I was happy to talk to Sharing Stories. It was my way of letting my child know about me." (A mother)

"I saw it as putting the record straight." (A father)

"They was easy to explain things to. And they don't judge you either with what you have to say. They are easy to talk to and very understanding. Lots easier to pass information on to carers and that." (A mother)

"Definitely would [recommend it] someone to listen to our side, putting our side across. Doing right thing I think, recommend it to other families." (A father)

How do I get in touch with you?

If you are interested in Sharing Stories you can call us on the numbers below to find out more about how we work. There is a cost to local authorities if they agree to refer you to Sharing Stories, but no cost to you. If you would like to be referred tell your social worker or you can call us directly and we will be happy to talk to the local authority.

Sharing Stories contact details:



0117 935 8826



Eve Payne - 07519109273



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Sharing Stories



Information for Parents

Introducing Sharing Stories

If your child has been placed with someone else and social services are talking about adoption, or another type of permanent care such as Special Guardianship or Long Term Fostering for your child, you will be managing complicated emotions and some difficult decisions. Sharing Stories recognises that being separated from your child can be overwhelming and seeks to work with all families in a supportive, caring and confidential manner, giving families in your position the chance to share information with your child about yourself, your family and your history, in your own words.

What information do Sharing Stories want?

Every situation is different so the information that you share can take many forms. It might be a story about the people in your family, a photo, or details of family traits, strengths and interests. It might be information about what music you like, your favourite food or things you like doing. Sharing Stories will help you think about what feels right for you to share.

Why do we need it?

Experience and research tells us that the information you share with Sharing Stories will be of great value to your child as they come to make sense of their life story and who they are, both now and in the future. It is important for children to hear their story from *your* point of view, as well as from the views of professionals.

Where does the information go?

The Sharing Stories workers do not work for the local authority and are not part of the on-going court process. The information you share will go towards helping your child understand their family history and where they come from. It will be kept safe until the court has finally decided where your child is going to live, unless you agree to sharing

information before this. The service may also create a life story book for your child. This will be given to your child and their permanent carers should they not return to your care and it will be shared with social services to be kept on your child's file.

If your child does not return to live with you, then the information you have shared with Sharing Stories will be shared with the permanent carers and they will also be given training in how to support your child to understand where they came from and what has happened in their lives.

If your child comes back home to your care, all Sharing Stories information will be returned to you. Sharing Stories will then work with the carers who looked after your child to encourage them to share information about the time that your child spent with them so that you can help your child to understand this time in their life as they get older.

If whilst working with Sharing Stories we were concerned that someone was in danger of being hurt then we would need to pass this information on, but we would let you know where possible.

Why do we ask you to work with Sharing Stories now?

We know we are asking a lot by asking you to start this work when you are still coming to terms with your child being somewhere else. We do this because usually the earlier we start, the better the information for your children. Also, some parents have found it helpful to talk about things in their own words. But if it is too much now, you can get in touch with us later.