

TERMINATION OF LET'S CONNECT

Foundations have ended the Let's Connect Fostering Communities study.

Let's Connect is a programme developed by Barnardo's, aiming to improve the mental health and wellbeing of foster and kinship carer households based on the Wellness Recovery Action Planning model (WRAP). Coram was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the intervention, consisting of a pilot Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT), an implementation and process evaluation, and a cost analysis.

Foundations took the decision to end the project in February 2024 as it became clear that it could not meet its aims. This is primarily because insufficient participants could be recruited to the programme. When Foundations took the decision to end the study, the programme had been delivered for 12 months. While 107 families had expressed interest and were randomised (60% of the target), expressions of interest did not convert into participants receiving the intervention. In total, 45 participants received the intervention (27 adult carers, and 18 children/young people) which was 10% of the target. Fostering households who had already been offered participation in the programme could still receive the intervention after the study was ended.

Fieldwork and data collection ended in February 2024, and Foundations took the decision not to publish a final evaluation report. This is because the final sample size was deemed too small to draw any meaningful conclusions, both in relation to the outcomes for children and carers and whether the trial was scalable for a full RCT. The pilot was therefore not able to meet its intended aims.