

Love
Black Country

FAMILIES 

Family
Champions
TRAINING MANUAL

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FAMILIES CHAMPIONS

THE VISION

THE PROBLEM

22,000 Black Country children were officially defined as “in need” in 2015. Social Services are under increasing pressure as they try to address this problem. Churches are currently doing their best to serve struggling families in their communities but the need is too great for individual churches to tackle alone.



THE SOLUTION



God has given people in your church gifts and abilities to contribute towards a solution to this problem but they often don't know how they can help. Our vision is for each Black Country Church to have a Families Champion who connects people with the charities best-placed to support families in need.

THE STRATEGY

Love Black Country Families will train and equip you to become the main point of contact between your church and our partner charities.

The role of a Love Black Country Families Champion is to volunteer to raise awareness of the various issues facing families in the Black Country. Champions help people in their church to engage with expert partner charities to support local children, young people and families.



Families Champions are trained and supported by Love Black Country Families. LBCF is an initial collaboration of 4 national charities who each work with families in different ways – Home for Good, Safe Families for Children, TLG and YMCA Open Door. This is the first time these charities have ever agreed to work together on an initiative of this kind and their partnership is truly ground-breaking. LBCF is administrated by Love Black Country (also known as The Black Country Net) and Transforming Communities Together (a charity helping to tackle poverty locally).

THE RESULT



Children and families in the Black Country receive the support and care that God desires for them through the Black Country Church being mobilised and equipped to respond.

FAMILIES CHAMPIONS

THE ROLE

To complete the role of Families Champion effectively, here's what you'll need to do...

1 ATTEND

1. An annual training event run by Love Black Country Families. The purpose of the training evening is to help you understand what each of our partner charities do and how people in your church can connect with them.
2. A feedback evening on Tuesday 16th October 2018 to feedback how the role is working itself out in your churches, feedback any success stories and discuss how the role can be tweaked to make it more effective.



2 READ

LBCF will produce a quarterly newsletter which outlines the activities and events of each of our partner charities.

We would encourage Families Champions to share the relevant information from that newsletter with people in your church who you know may benefit from it.

E.G. Let any foster or adoptive families in your church know about any events or initiatives that Home for Good are running to support them. If your church has a children's or families worker, let them know about the work that TLG are accomplishing in schools and encourage them to connect with Paul Holden. If your church has lots of families with spare rooms, perhaps share with them the opportunity to work with YMCA Open Door as a Night Stop Host or Safe Families as a Host Family.



Families Champions are not expected to serve every charity or link with them all. It is about finding the right partners for the demographic of your church.

FAMILIES CHAMPIONS

THE ROLE (c'tnd)

3 SHARE

The most visible role of a Families Champion will happen once a quarter (or possibly more if your church really catch the vision!). Four dates have been put in the calendar for 2018/2019 (see the Calendar page later in this manual).

On these Sundays, your Church Leader needs to agree to giving you a minimum of a 10-minute slot to present the vision for children, young people and families to the congregation and help to raise an awareness of the work of a specific partner charity.

We will provide you with a PowerPoint presentation, script and video for each of these themed presentation slots if you want to use them. However, you can make the presentation completely your own thing if you'd rather.

We encourage you to work with your Church Leaders to connect the presentation with the wider vision of your Church and make it personal and relevant to your congregation. The calendar dates tie in with national awareness days (i.e. Adoption Sunday, Carers' Sunday etc) but if you want to move the date of your slot slightly to fit with your church's calendar, that's absolutely fine. We advise you to discuss all four dates with your Church Leaders ASAP so they can be put in the diary for next year.

As well as the four Sunday presentations, Families Champions also need to make sure that our partner charities and the families they represent are a priority on the church's prayer agenda.



4 CONNECT

Following both the Sunday presentations and your general networking, your final role is to connect people within your church who express an interest in serving children, young people and families with the relevant partner charities that can help them do it.

To help you, we have produced a diagram later in this manual of the various ways and levels that people can connect with our partner charities.



CHARITY PROFILES

HOME FOR GOOD



KEY WORDS

Adoption Fostering Children in Care Parent Support

ELEVATOR PITCH

Home for Good works in churches to raise awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents, encouraging families to provide loving homes for children in care, as well as equipping the Church to offer welcoming communities for foster and adoptive families.

They provide information and training to churches to dispel myths about local authority adoption routes and have their own adoption pathway through five regional 'Ofsted-Outstanding' adoption agencies.

Home for Good train up champions to organise information events for them in the local area, have coffee with people thinking about fostering or adoption and work with churches to set up a peer-led support group for foster carers and adoptive parents.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

- Register your church as a Home for Good Church
- Become a Home for Good Champion for your church
- Adopt through the Home for Good pathway to adoption
- Foster through Home for Good partnership with the local authority
- Support another family who have fostered or adopted, e.g. babysitting, cooking etc.
- Become a Home for Good Prayer Partner
- Give regularly or as a one-off to Home for Good

CONTACT



Kath Johnson is the Home for Good West Midlands Project Worker



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CHARITY PROFILES

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

LOGO



Safe Families for Children

KEY WORDS

Family Breakdown Family Support Short term Crises Practical Help

ELEVATOR PITCH

Safe Families for Children (Safe Families) works to fight against family breakdown, child neglect and abuse. Safe Families believes that parents are central to providing long-term safe environments for their children and seeks to reduce the number of children who need to go into the care system.

Accepting referrals from partnering local authorities, Safe Families match struggling families with caring volunteers in their area who can provide help in the form of Host Families, Family Friends and Resource Friends while parents seek to restore stability in their lives.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

- Host Families – open their home to children whilst the child’s parents/carers resolve short-term crises. Host Families can choose the number, preferred age range and gender of children they are able to accommodate, as well as when they are available to volunteer.
- Family Friends – offer help according to their skills, interest and availability. This can include moral and parenting support and encouragement to parents/carers in difficulty or practical help, such as babysitting or providing transport either in direct contact with the parents/carers in difficulty or as support for Host Families.
- Resource Friends - do not have contact with the family in crisis but demonstrate their compassion through providing a simple service, transport of resources, some DIY or gardening or through donating much needed resources; from cots, toys, nappies, furniture or clothing, through to kitchen appliances, food and pots of paint!

CONTACT



Kay Hillman is the Senior Family Support Manager for Safe Families.



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CHARITY PROFILES

TLG - The Education Charity

LOGO



KEY WORDS

Education Children School Parenting Support Coaching

ELEVATOR PITCH

You could change the life of a child struggling at school with TLG! Throughout the Black Country, children are struggling in school for all kinds of reasons. A bit of extra time and input can make all the difference.

TLG Early Intervention gives the church a practical solution to support children and schools in their community. They train volunteers to become coaches and work on a one to one basis with a child, aiming to improve a child's behaviour and improve their learning. Through regular conversations with home, the coach is able to offer support and discuss strategies to help the child both with school and home life.

After a one off contribution and a monthly fee from the church or local hub, TLG trains and equips volunteers from your church with proven resources to help children.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

- TLG Early Intervention - Trained coaches commit to meeting with one child for one hour a week for one school year.
- Journey Makers - a free afterschool club providing consistent role models for children as they explore ideas of purpose, citizenship, identity, faith and their role within the community. In partnership with local churches, TLG train and resource teams of enthusiastic volunteers to make a lasting impact in schools.
- School Kit - a video course that takes an informal and fun look at some great principles for helping kids get the best out of school.
- Education Centres - a small school delivered in partnership with a local church to help young people aged 11-16 who are at risk of exclusion from school or at crisis point in their education.

CONTACT



Esther Finney is the TLG Midlands Early Intervention Regional Leader.



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CHARITY PROFILES

YMCA OPEN DOOR

LOGO



YMCA OPEN DOOR

Supported Lodgings for homeless young people

KEY WORDS

Homelessness Young People Teenagers Spare Room House Lodger

ELEVATOR PITCH

Your spare room could make a huge difference through YMCA Open Door.

YMCA Open Door is a YMCA Black Country Project that accommodates homeless young people (16-25 year olds) by placing them with families in the community both long and short term. They have two services available for young people in need: Nightstop and Supported Lodgings:

Nightstop is a short term, emergency option, that prevents young people sleeping rough. It is essentially dinner, bed and breakfast for a young person while they sort out a more permanent living situation. It works on a night by night basis and hosts receive £20 for each night they provide a safe home.

Supported Lodgings is a longer term option. Following a matching exercise on both sides, a young person is placed with a host family for up to 2 years, giving them the chance to work towards independence and a sustainable future whilst they are in education or employment. Hosts receive £115 per week to provide a safe and supportive home environment for a vulnerable young person, and to enable a brighter future.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

- Become a Nightstop host/Supported Lodgings host.
- The scheme is suitable for people that work, and for those that don't.
- Hosts are from many different backgrounds, races and ages.
- Hosts can be anyone with a spare room, the ability to provide at least one meal a day and a heart to help.

CONTACT



Jonathan Crust is the Host Coordinator for the YMCA Black Country Group.



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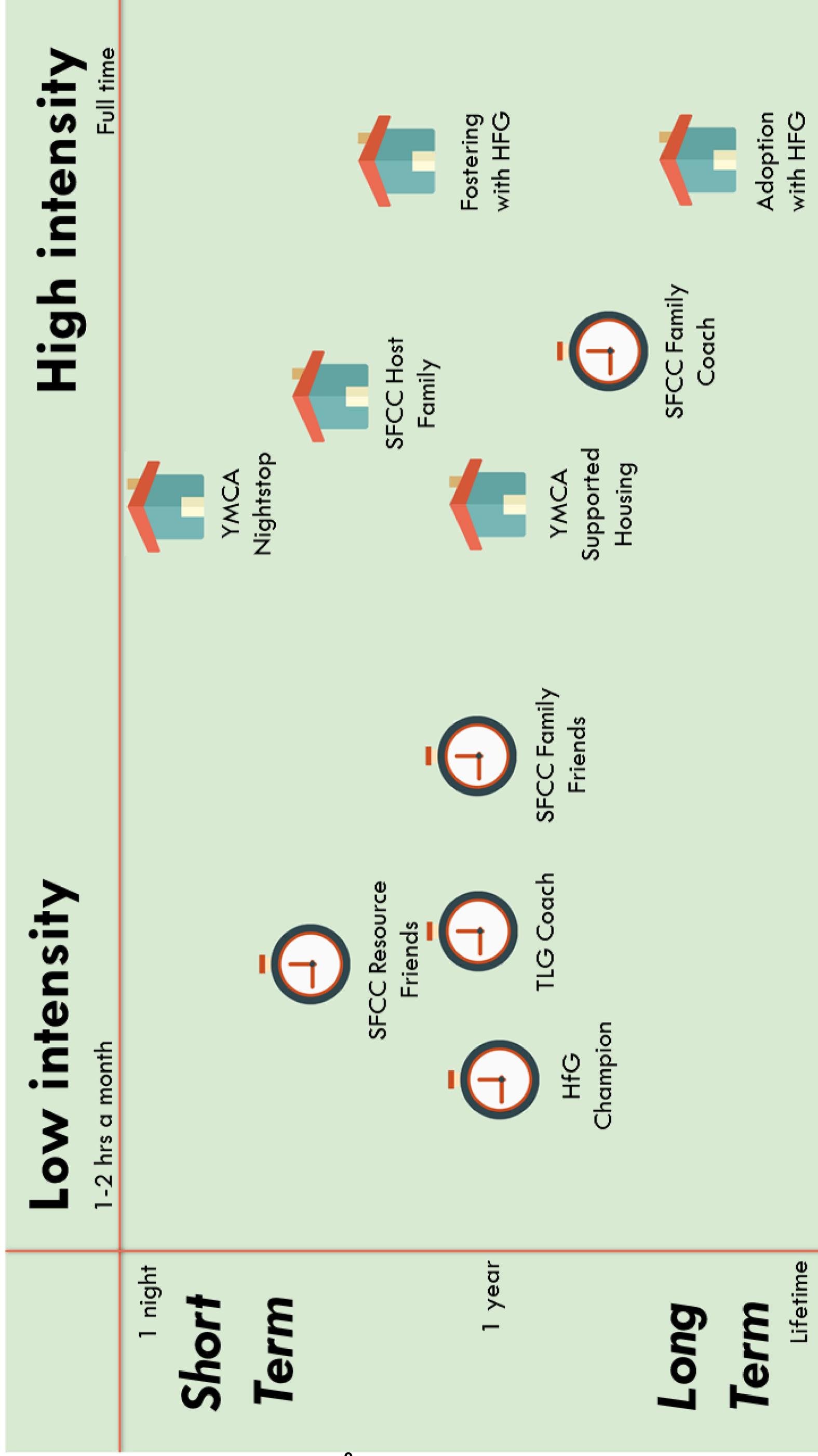


07850 515604



www.ymcab.org.uk

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT



QUARTERLY PRESENTATION

TIPS FOR GIVING A GOOD PRESENTATION

- Visuals and variety are very important for helping people to get a message.
- Use a simple PowerPoint where available and consider using videos produced by the partner charities.
- If making your own power point avoid light coloured text and busy backgrounds. For emphasis you can use off-white text on a dark background.
- Make sure you give your PowerPoint and video to your tech people before the meeting (emailing it in advance of Sunday is often appreciated).
- Make sure they know you need sound output from the laptop
- Be clear with your church leader or meeting leader when you are expected to speak and how long it will be for.
- Honour the rest of the meeting by sticking to your timings.
- Hold a microphone at with your hand at about chest height and several inches between your mouth and the microphone head.
- Make sure it is pointed at your mouth (and that it follows you if you turn to the side).
- You invariably speak faster than you intend when speaking publicly so make a conscious effort to slow down.
- Let people know where they can find out more (and make yourself available afterwards).
- This isn't a preach but it may be helpful to include a short passage of scripture to underline the importance of this kind of work in the life of the people of God.
- Useful scriptures could include:

James 1:27

Matthew 25:36-40

Micah 6:8

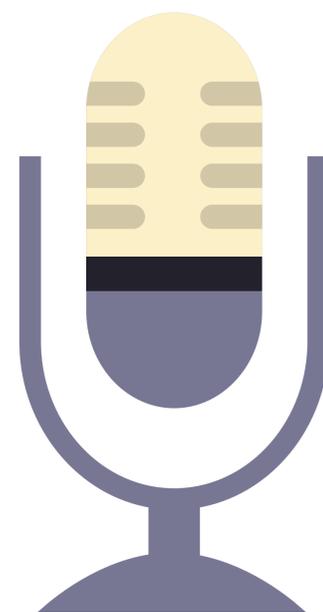
Job 31:16-18

James 2:15-16

Exodus 22:22

Psalms 68:5

Isaiah 58:7



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APPENDIX

- Church Leaders' Information
 - Partner Charity Flyers
- Sample Presentation Script (Homeless Sunday)