Edge of care teams across the UK respond to children and families in crisis, enabling them to address and overcome the difficulties that have led to the family being at risk of breakdown, and prevent further escalation and referral to care proceedings. These teams work tirelessly to limit the risk of children being moved into care, to address complex multiple needs across a family unit, and support the reunification of families post care order.

A commissioner at an edge of care team discusses the impact of the Family Links approach within an edge of care setting:

“... We work with families in crisis situations that are placing a child at the edge of care and there is a high potential for that child to become looked after. We use the Family Links programmes alongside practical family support to bring them out of that crisis or to reduce the crisis and risk. Other programmes may not allow you to do that because there is an emphasis on stability within the family before you deliver.

What drew me to the Family Links programmes was the growing theory base behind it, and the focus on developing parental empathy; to get parents to walk in the child’s shoes and understand what it’s like to be parented in that way. Although we have a range of parenting interventions, I would say that in 90% of families we can use the Nurturing Programme - the same couldn’t be said for others.

The Nurturing Programme is my go-to parenting plan and every member of my team is trained in it - it’s one they are confident in, and that goes back to the quality of the training; it’s accessible to the practitioners as well as to the parents.

It would be difficult for me to say anything negative about commissioning Family Links programmes. It’s straightforward and there’s good communication, good venues, the quality of the training delivery is good. I think the fact that I’ve come back to you time and time again tells you that.”

- Commissioner, Edge of Care Team