Lovin’ the work Linda Bond, Ofsted (November 2017)

Introduction The ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations including the quality standards’ tells us: Children in residential child care should be loved, happy, healthy, safe from harm and able to develop, thrive and fulfil their potential (page 6)

Through this presentation we will explore the following: • Language used in children’s homes that helps children feel loved • Behaviours in children’s homes that show our children they are loved • How the aesthetics of the home help our children to feel loved .

The definition of Love • Love is a variety of different emotional and mental states, typically strongly and positively experienced, that ranges from deepest interpersonal affection to simple pleasure • It is the concept of a human being caring about another • Love refers to an experience one person feels for another. Love often involves caring for, or identifying with, a person or thing Truths about love • All human beings need love? • Love is a profound sense of attachment? • Love is always two way? • Love needs not be glorious or romantic? • Love takes time? • Love cannot be commanded. It can only be given?

What do we know about the children’s experiences of ‘love’ living in our children’s home? We know our children will be living on a daily basis with any or all of the following: • Abuse • Loss • Rejection • Pain • Trauma • Separation .

They may not have experienced love as defined

Potential group work –

* session 1. Language used in children’s homes that helps children feel ‘loved’ What terms, phrases, acronyms are you currently using either when recording information or when talking with children or between staff? Give examples of what you do What are the barriers?
* session 2. Behaviours in children’s homes that show our children they are ‘loved’ What behaviours do our children witness or experience in the children home that makes them feel loved? Give examples of what you do What are the barriers?
* session 3. How the aesthetics of the home help our children to feel loved What is it about the structure, design, fabric of your children’s home that helps the child feel loved? Give examples of what you do What are the barriers?