



familyplans
family group conferences

Information about Family Group Conferences

www.family-plans.com

What is a Family Group Conference (FGC)?

A FGC is a meeting where families and their friends get together to make plans for their children.

The meeting is organised and run by an independent person (The 'FGC coordinator').

During the FGC meeting **you and your family will meet in private** to plan for your child(ren).

You will be asked about the date/time/venue and refreshments for the FGC so that the arrangements are suitable for your family. Childcare can be provided.

Children are part of the FGC - your FGC coordinator will talk to the child(ren)'s parent -or the person looking after them - about who will be the best person to prepare and support them to contribute at the FGC.

What happens once the referral has been made?

Your FGC coordinator meets first with the child(ren)'s parent or main carer to explain how it works and to help decide who needs to be at the FGC.

They then make contact with everyone who should attend to prepare them for the FGC .They will give everyone the questions the referrer would like you to think about when making your plan.

What happens at the FGC meeting itself?

The coordinator welcomes everyone and chairs the meeting.

The FGC meeting has 3 parts:

1. *Information giving*

The referrer says why Children's Services (Social Services) is involved and what support may be available to help. The referrer will explain what future action (if any) Children's Services (Social Services) may take if they continue to be concerned about the child(ren). When they have finished you will have the chance to ask questions.

By the end of this you should be clear about why Children's Services (Social Services) are involved and what you should consider in making your plan.

2. *Private Time*

Private time is just that – it is your chance to meet without the professionals or the FGC coordinator present, to discuss and put together your family plan. Refreshments may be served at this stage and you can take as many breaks as you need.

3. *Presenting the plan*

Once you have made a plan, you share it with the referrer. They will clarify the details with you. Your plan will be accepted as long as it keeps the child(ren) safe. If you ask for resources or services, these may need to be considered at a senior level, but the referrer can agree in principle. You and the referrer will make a decision about how the plan will be monitored.

You will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about how helpful you found the FGC. The coordinator will send your plan to everyone who has taken part. The referrer will work alongside you to help you and family put the plan into action.

Why have a Family Group Conference?

Family and close family friends are the most important people in children's lives: they have unique knowledge about their children and of course they know how their family works.

Sometimes parents or carers experience difficulties in caring for their children and a Family Group Conference can be really useful in bringing the whole family together to help.

A Family Group Conference provides the opportunity for families to meet together to

Hear up to date information about the social work involvement and concerns

Take part in family discussion in the private time session- without agencies or anyone else present

Draw up a plan for the child(ren) that draws on the support of the family – the people who know the child(ren) best

What can I do if I am unhappy about the FGC?

If you have any concerns about anything to do with your FGC, please speak to us on 07950 209497 or email famplanltd@aol.com

For more information about Family Group Conferences and familyplans, please see our website:

www.family-plans.com