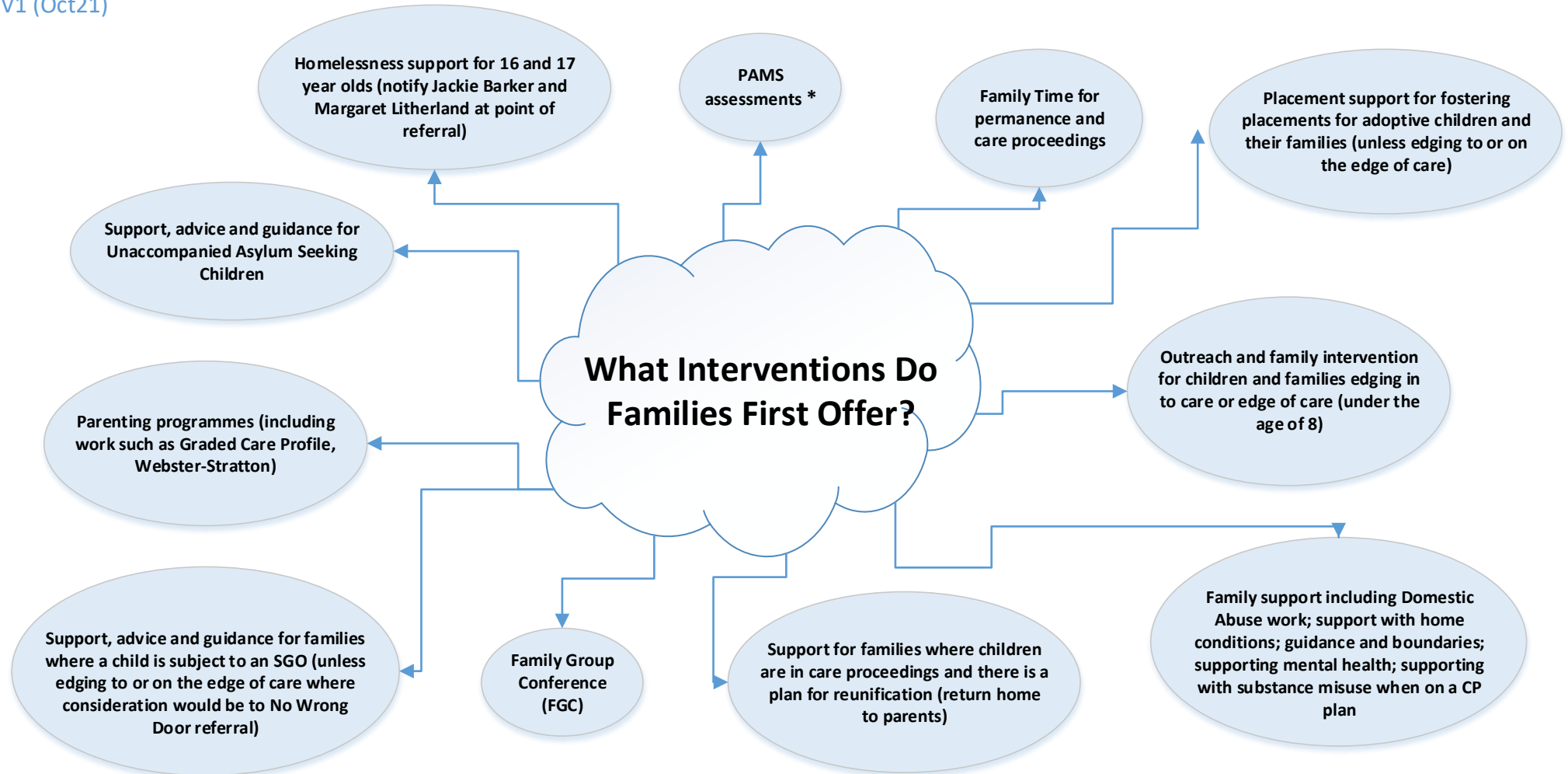


Families First Guidance

V1 (Oct21)



*PAMS assessments are specialist assessments of parents with learning needs or additional needs. A cognitive assessment needs to have been undertaken first. Allow 8-10 weeks for a single assessment, and 10-12 weeks for a joint assessment to be completed (try and allow this or have a discussion with Danielle Howard or Sam Dorrell if a different timescale is needed)

NB. Families First no longer provide Out Of Hours support; short breaks and respite and edge of care/outreach for those children over the age of 8 (this is the remit of the Lighthouse) - No Wrong Door (No Wrong Door referral requests can be made through the start menu on the child's file on mosaic)

Families First Flowchart

Threshold

Before a referral is made, consideration needs to be made as to whether threshold is met for families' first intervention.

Families' first work predominantly with families under Child Protection (CP) plans; however there are some exceptions where families supported under Child In Need are accepted which comprise; SGO (Special Guardianship Order) or adoption support, homelessness 16/17, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Family Group Conference

Referral Process Start

- Referral to be completed on mosaic (go to start menu and click families first referral request)
- Be specific and clear on what intervention is needed including priorities

Families First (FF) worker allocated

Initial Agreement

- This should take place within **10 working days** of allocation (FF worker contacts the social worker to arrange this)
- Needs to be completed by the FF worker, social worker and family member

Review

- Reviews of intervention should take place every **6 weeks** (FF worker puts the date in for the review)
- Reviews can be combined with core group meetings if appropriate
- Additional reviews will take place if there are any changes to a child's circumstances or if a significant incident occurs; therefore ensure that there is communication between social worker and FF worker so that plans/ intervention can be updated and amended as necessary

Family Time FAQ's

V1 (Oct21)

Question	Response
In what situations can Families First supervise family time?	When a child is in care and also when a family are subject to care proceedings
When should I make a referral?	At the earliest opportunity that a child is coming in to care so that family time can be set up as smoothly and quickly as possible
How do I refer?	Follow the same process as with all other families first referrals – through the start menu on mosaic
Who should I discuss family time with?	Louise Gough or Sarah Clements
Whose responsibility is it to arrange family time when in proceedings?	The Local Authority (LA) – there should be no delay in starting family time and in some instances, it may be the social worker who will undertake family time until a Families First family time referral has been made and allocated to a family time worker
How long does it take for a family time worker to be allocated?	FF always look to allocate within a 2 week period and in some cases this may be joint worked
Is there a meeting to plan family time?	An initial agreement should take place within 10 working days to discuss expectations and should be clear on what the social worker is hoping the family time worker will focus on. This could be linked with a written agreement if there is one or particular areas of parenting that is needed to be evidenced. FF worker sets this meeting
Is there a review of the family time agreement?	Yes, it should be reviewed every 6 weeks for proceedings and every 6 months for permanence unless there are any changes or significant events where it should be reviewed earlier. It is the responsibility of the children in care social worker to initiate a review if looking to undertake any changes to frequency or duration of family time