

**Name of your FGC Convenor**

**Contact details**

**Useful Links:**

Family Rights Group Advice Line:

**0808 801 0366**

**[www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk)**

**Stourbridge Family Centre**

Forge Street

Stourbridge

DY8 1XF

For more information call **01384 815142**

Or email: **[fgcservice@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:fgcservice@dudley.gov.uk)**

# Family Group Conferences

Information for families



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or email: **[fgc.service@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:fgc.service@dudley.gov.uk)**

## **What is a Family Group Conference (FGC)?**

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is an opportunity for family members and close friends, together with your child, to get together to try to find a solution to a problem or to find ways support your family keep your children safe.

Every child has a right to a FGC but it is up to you if you want one. If you want to talk about this, a member of the FGC team will be able to talk to you to answer any questions you may have.

If you go ahead with an FGC, an independent Convenor , who is a member of Dudley FGC team but who does not get involved in any other meetings or decision making , will support and help the whole family to prepare for the FGC.

## **Who should come to the FGC?**

The best people to help your child or young person are usually their own relatives and close friends who you think of as part of your family.

### **The child's advocate –**

It is extremely important that your child is involved in the FGC and have a say about how they feel about the situation. The Advocate (an independent member of the the FGC team) will meet with them before the FGC to discuss this and will then support them at the FGC.

The convenor will visit everyone that you want to attend. You choose the date, the venue and refreshments you would like.

## **On the day of the FGC**

The first part of the FGC is about information sharing.

The convenor will ask everyone to introduce themselves and make sure everyone understands what the FGC is about.

They will also agree on some rules for success to help the FGC run smoothly and remain focussed on the problems or issues that need to be resolved.

The Social Worker (referrer) will be asked to talk about what has brought you to the FGC. They will discuss with you the strengths within the family, what are their worries and what needs to happen next.

You will then have the opportunity to ask the social worker any questions you may have.

## **Private Family Time**

This is the most important part of the FGC. It's where the professionals leave the room and you have time to discuss and make a family plan that is detailed and that promotes the safety of the child. The convenor will remain on hand if you need to check anything out.

## **The Family Plan**

The professionals are invited back into the room when you are ready to share your Family Plan. If safe, the Family Plan will be agreed by the Social worker; sometimes this has to be subject to further checks being made.

The Convenor will give all attendees a copy of the Family Plan and also ask for a person in the family to become the main contact, who is called the 'Monitor' of the plan. It is their role to contact the Convenor if any part of the plan is not able to be put in place.

The convenor will also offer a review date in around 3 months time.