

## How do the meetings work?

Meetings are set up by an Independent Person who is not involved in the planning and they are independent of any decisions made about you or your family. They are fully trained to deliver the types of meeting. They will support you and the family through the process, and prepare professionals to attend. The meeting is held in a neutral venue at a convenient time. They will organise what is needed to get the right information to the family group and set up the meeting.

Co-ordinators do not assess families, the only assessment they will do is if it is safe to hold a meeting.

## Personal information and consent.

We will need to be able to contact you with arrangements linked to the meeting. In order to do this we will need to store your name, address and contact details on our secure and private system. We will keep limited details of our work with you, such as dates and times of visits and

what meetings we set up for you. You will need to consent to this as part of your engagement with our service.

If you have any questions about the information we store, please ask.

There is a privacy statement on our website.

## Contacting Family Group Conference Plus

We offer a service to families across Devon and requests for services or enquiries can be sent to our mailbox

[fgcplus@devon.gov.uk](mailto:fgcplus@devon.gov.uk)

Please feel free to contact us to find out what we can offer.



### FGC Project Accreditation

This service has met the requirements of the National Accreditation Framework



Name of Co-ordinator contact:

or visit our website for more information  
<http://devon.cc/fgcplus>

# Family Group Conference Plus

An opportunity for families to be supported to find their own solutions



**YOUR FAMILY,  
YOUR MEETING,  
YOUR VOICE,  
YOUR CHOICE,**



## **Types of meeting offered by Family Group Conference Plus**

**Family Group Conference (FGC):** A family led meeting that is held with as many family members as possible to make plans and decisions about a child's future and how to keep them safe. The family are the primary planning group and have private planning time. Children and young people are encouraged to attend and supported to do so.

**Facilitated Meeting:** Similar to a Family Group Conference but facilitated by one of our team where the family does not have the same family time. The facilitation could be planned with the family beforehand or be requested by the family on the day.

**Meeting of Understanding:** Used to help with communication between two 'parties'. Preparation will take place with each participant beforehand. When both parties are satisfied that they have been heard, there is an opportunity to make an agreement about what should happen. Children do not usually attend this type of meeting, the aim is to promote better understanding between parties for the benefit of the child or young person.

**Restorative Meeting:** A smaller meeting between 2-4 people, preparation will take place beforehand. Used for improving fractured relationships. Children do not usually attend this type of meeting, the aim is to resolve issues of conflict for the benefit of the child or young person.

**Family Support Circle:** Offers ideas and solutions about issues. Having heard what the issues are, the family members are encouraged to ask 'Questions of Understanding'. Each member is, in turn, then asked for a solution to share. They are thanked for their contribution and three ideas are chosen by the carer who nominates someone to support them in putting their first choice into action.

**Emergency Network Meeting:** A meeting convened with a child's immediate network of support (family members and professionals) within days of a point of crisis. Urgency means family will have much less choice over date, time, venue etc. out of necessity. The meeting itself may not have all the features of a Family Group Conference. Private Family Time is not essential though may be offered if felt appropriate. Ideally these meetings are aimed at addressing immediate safety and practical need - one issue - then work towards a full Family Group Conference to make more robust plans with wider support networks.

## **What does Family Group Conference Plus offer?**

Family Group Conference Plus are able to offer families a choice of different types of meetings aimed at making positive changes to improve the lives of children and young people.

**Your co-ordinator will be able to discuss with you which type of meeting might work best and offer the outcome you want.**

In addition to the meetings on offer we also undertake visits to families to explain the types of meetings on offer and explore with them if they would want to engage with our services.

## **Why might you choose Family Group Conference Plus (FGC Plus)?**

The reason for involvement will depend on what plans are needed. Where change is needed to improve a situation there will always need to be a plan in place to achieve this. FGC Plus offers families an opportunity to positively contribute to making these plans.

It is a families choice whether to be involved, if you choose not to make a plan you will need to know that plan will still need to be made and others outside of your family, may then need to make the plan.

It is always your choice if you want to engage with us. You can 'opt out' at any point during our work with you if you wish, but planning will still need to continue for the child/young person as outlined above.

