

What does Family Group Conference Plus offer?

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

Why might families choose 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 the family an opportunity to positively contribute to making these plans.

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

It is always their choice if they want to engage with us. We offer visits to families to explain the choice of meetings we can offer and how they work.

How do the meetings work?

They are set up by an Independent Person who is not involved in the planning. They are trained to deliver all types of meeting. They will support you and the family through these family led processes. The meetings are held in a neutral venue at a convenient time for the family.

We will continue to seek clarity from you on any issues the family need to understand prior to meeting. We will ask you to ensure that any plan the family make is the core of the work you are doing with them. Their plan needs to fit with any other statutory planning processes in place, so it is vital you are clear with them about the issues they need to address.

Their plans should be accepted in their entirety unless they place a child/young person at risk

Contacting Family Group Conference Plus

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

fgcplus@devon.gov.uk

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

Or visit our website at:

<http://devon.cc/fgcplus>



FGC Project Accreditation

This service has met the requirements of the National Accreditation Framework



Family Group Conference Plus

INFORMATION FOR REFERRERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

AND WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

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 and/or friends as possible to make plans and decisions about a child's future and how to keep them safe. The family is 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 private 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 meeting usually 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' in turn and 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, friends 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.

EXPECTATIONS AND TIMESCALES

There is an expectation that if one team refers a family for our services then this referral will be supported by the team taking over the case. There should be no delay in providing our service.

When the referral is fully completed - we will aim to allocate as soon as we can, our timescale for this is 7 days.

Once this is allocated the co-ordinator will arrange to meet with you within two days, please make yourselves available to prevent delay in the process. We will contact the family within 5 days and arrange a visit.

Should you not be available to respond we will contact your manager to discuss with them. We will be working to achieve a meeting with the family within 6 weeks and will need your availability to set a date to work towards within the first two weeks.

Once the meeting is completed we will circulate the agreement reached to you within 3 working days and we will then close the case, until it is time to review any plan.

Any agreement/plan that the family propose should be accepted in its entirety if it addresses the questions that the family have been asked to plan for. It remains the social workers responsibility to save the referral and any family agreement to the child's electronic file.

We will contact you 4-6 weeks before any scheduled review to request you complete the update for the review. When this is done we will be able to set up the review meeting. Again we will convene this within 6 weeks of having the information from you and consent from the family that they want to meet again.

With the introduction of GDPR please pay particular attention to ensuring you have explicit consent to make this referral to our team.