



Family Group Conferences

Information for Children
and Young People



Part of the Family Matters Service

What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a meeting for you, your family and sometimes family friends. Your family might include aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins. There may be other people who you, or your mum/dad/carer may consider as family who may also be invited along.

Your Social Worker or similar worker and perhaps other people who want to help your family will also be there. There is also a 'Co-ordinator' who organises the meeting.

Why are we having a Family Group Conference?

Because you and your family may be able to sort out your family problems by getting together to talk and plan.

Do I come to the meeting?

Normally yes. The meeting will be about how the family can improve things for you. It's a good idea to come to the meeting so you can tell people how you feel and how you would like things to change.

You can get a child friendly agenda from the Co-ordinator who you may already have met. The Co-ordinator will have had a chat with you and you may have already told them your wishes and feelings.

You may not want to speak at the meeting but your wishes and feelings can be shared as after all, this whole meeting is about making things better for you .

There maybe some things that need to be discussed at the meeting to sort them out that could be upsetting for you to hear though so sometimes it might not be good for you to attend. The Co-ordinator will talk to you about this though and make sure the people who do go to the meeting know what your wishes and feelings are.

What if I am worried/nervous about the meeting?

The Co-ordinator can arrange for you to have an advocate. This could be someone you know or someone who is new to you. Advocates are brilliant at helping young people and children to have their say. If you don't want to speak in your meeting they will speak for you.

What happens at the meeting?

The Co-ordinator welcomes everyone and your Social Worker or similar worker will explain to your family what concerns they have. Your family will then have some private time when they can come up with a plan which makes you and any other young people in your family happier and safer.

What happens after the meeting?


After the meeting, you will receive a child friendly copy of your Family Plan that was agreed at the meeting. This will say how things should change for the future.

You and your family decide if you want to meet up again to see if the plan has worked. If you decide not to meet up again, your Social or Family Worker will check with you if things are going well.

What if you're unhappy with the Family Group Conference?

If you are unhappy with the action of anybody in the process you should discuss this with the Co-ordinator or their Line Manager. The Co-ordinator has an independent role and is accountable to Wirral Council Childrens' Services Department. If this issue is still not resolved, you will be supported to access Wirral's formal complaints procedures.

For more information, please contact your Family Group Conference Team Leader, Allana Ghaemi on 0151 666 4947 or via familygroupconference@wirral.gov.uk



**The aim of a
Family Group Conference
is to give families and
their children/young people
a central role in
decision making.**

**For Further Information
please contact:**

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