

Why have an FGC?

- To take part in a decision-making process for your children and to draw up a safe and supportive family plan
- To receive information regarding additional support for you and your family
- We believe that all families want to find solutions and make good decisions for their children

A family who attended an FGC said:

'As a family we now have a plan that will support my sister and her children. She is no longer alone.'

Another family said:

'The FGC meeting links everyone together and made it possible for a supportive plan to be made.'

How to contact us:

For all enquires and questions or to speak to a member of the team please do not hesitate to contact us via the team mailbox.

You can also speak to your worker about being referred for an FGC.

WandsworthLINKS@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth L.I.N.K.S.

Family Group Conferences (FGCs)

Information for families

Families, friends, and professionals coming together to make realistic and safe support plans for children and young people.



What is an FGC? An FGC is a family led decision-making process that enables an informal support network to collectively make safe plans for the future. A meeting between a network of family members, friends and other key people facilitated by an FGC coordinator. A Lead Professional who is working with the family, such as a Social Worker, Early Help Practitioner or Personal Advisor also attends.

What is an FGC for? It is to meet and address worries and to draw up an agreed realistic, supportive family plan to improve the well-being of children and young people within the family.

The FGC is a voluntary offer, and parents and carers are the decision makers involved in the planning of the meeting. You can decide who to invite, and choose the date, time, and venue.

How can the FGC be offered to your family? It is not a self-referral service. The professional who works with you and your family will send a referral to the Wandsworth L.I.N.K.s Team. An Independent FGC Coordinator will be allocated, and this worker first speaks to the referrer and then gets in touch with you to explain the process and help to organise the meeting. Everyone invited to the meeting will be provided in advance with a summary of the Local Authority's worries written by the Lead Professional.

Who can be invited to an FGC? - Close and extended family members, friends and can include for example, neighbours and members of a faith community. Children are encouraged to take part in their FGC too and to express their views and wishes. They are entitled to have someone to advocate for them, such as a family member, friend, school mentor, or a professional Advocate.

What happens at the FGC?

An FGC consists of 3 stages

1) Introduction/ Sharing Information

The Lead Professional attends the meeting and will share with your family the Local Authority's worries. There will be time to ask questions and get further clarification.

2) Private Family Time

After the sharing information stage, all professionals, including the FGC Coordinator leave the room to give your family a free space to talk about the worries raised. You will be offered as much time as you need to discuss and write up your own realistic plan.

3) Agreeing the Plan

Once the family plan is ready, the referrer and the coordinator will return to the room to discuss who will do what and how, and agree it. There will also be a chance to ask what support the Local Authority can put in place to strengthen and support your plan.

What happens after the FGC?

Everyone attending the meeting will receive a copy of the family plan, which should be carried out and reviewed. A review creates an opportunity to reflect on how it is working, to celebrate what is going well and think about whether there are areas that need further work and support, and to amend if necessary.

At the FGC, you can agree when you want the Review and choose the date and time for the meeting; usually within 3-6 months.

The FGC and FGC Review plans should be integrated into your children's CiN or CP or Early Help Plan, that have already been drawn up by the lead professionals working with you.