



FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCES (FGCs)

What is a Family Group Conference (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? To draw up a realistic plan of support that addresses worries and improves the well-being of children within the family. FGCs are voluntary and the family are the decision makers who are involved in the planning of the meeting. They get a chance to decide who to invite, the date, time, and venue.

How is an FGC offered to families? This is not a self-referral service. The Lead Professional working with a family will send a referral to the Wandsworth LINKs team via MOSAIC. An independent FGC coordinator will be allocated. The worker will first speak to the referrer and then get in touch with family members to explain the process and help organise the meeting. Everyone will be provided in advance with a summary of the Local Authority's worries and concerns written by the Lead Professional / referrer.

Who can be invited to an FGC? Close and extended family members, friends, neighbours, members of the faith Community etc. 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 FGC Advocate.

What happens at the FGC? FGCs consist of three stages:

1) Introduction/ Sharing Information (2) Private Family Time (3) Agreeing the Plan.

The Lead Professional, who made the referral, attends the meeting, and will share with the family the Local Authority's concerns and worries. There will be time to ask additional questions or get further clarification about the Local Authority's plan for the children. After that all professionals, including the FGC Coordinator, leave the room to give the family space to talk about the worries and concerns raised by the referrer. They will be offered as much time as they need to write up a plan. Once the plan is ready, the referrer and FGC Coordinator return to the room to discuss details and agree the plan. There will also be time to check what support the Local Authority can put in place to strengthen the plan.

What happens after an FGC? Everyone attending the meeting and the referrer receives a copy of the plan, which should be carried out and reviewed. The review creates an opportunity to reflect on how it is working, what is working well, and to amend it if necessary. The Review date and time will be arranged at the FGC Meeting, usually within 3-6 months. The FGC and Review plans should then be integrated into the CiN or CP or Early Help Plan that have already been drawn up by lead professionals.

How to contact us/make a referral:

Access the child/young person's record on **MOSAIC**

Go to **START** and follow the link to the Family Group Conference referral.

Wandsworth L.I.N.K.S. Staff will then contact you.



WandsworthLinks@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



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