

## Agreeing the family plan

Once the family has written their plan, the coordinator, social worker and any other professionals return to the meeting to hear the plan.

Your social worker has to sign off the plan agreed. The only time a social worker would be unable to do this is if you are in court proceedings or if the child would be at risk of significant harm.

## What happens after the Family Group Conference?

The coordinator will send a copy of the agreed plan to everyone who attended the meeting or contributed to the plan. This plan is presented exactly as it has been written and agreed at the FGC.

The plan will be reviewed by the family and the network with the support of the social worker on an ongoing basis, as it is important to know that all aspects of the plan are being carried out and are working successfully.

## Contact us

For more information please contact your child's social worker.

**If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language please contact us on:**

**Tel:** 03456 009 009  
(+18001 for Text Relay)  
**SMS:** 07860 053465  
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Nëse dëshironi që ky dokument të jetë me shkronja të mëdha, në kasetë ose në një gjuhë tjetër, ju lutemi n'a telefononi në një nga numrat e mësipërm.

إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على هذه الوثيقة في طباعة مكبرة، أو على شريط مسجل أو في لغة أخرى، فنرجو الاتصال بنا على أحد الأرقام للمدونة أعلاه.

আপনি যদি এই ডকুমেন্ট বা নথি বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, টেপে বা অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে উপরের যে কোন একটি নম্বরে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Si desea este documento impreso en letra grande, en casete o en otro idioma, rogamos que se ponga en contacto con nosotros llamando a uno de los números anteriores.

如欲索取本文的大字體版本、錄音帶版本或另一語言版本，請撥以上任一電話號碼，與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز بڑے حروف کی چھپائی میں، ٹیپ پر یا کسی دوسری زبان میں درکار ہو، تو براہ مہربانی اوپر دیئے ہوئے کسی ایک نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔



## a guide to family group conferences

Information for family members and friends



## What is a Family Group Conference (FGC)?

Family group conferences provide an opportunity for extended families and their networks (such as friends and neighbours) to come together to discuss issues related to a child's wellbeing. They allow family and network member's views to be clearly heard and for the group to help make important decisions about children and young people they care about.

## What's the aim of a Family Group Conference?

The goal is to make a plan, written in your own words, that describes how the family would like to take forward their child's care.

## How can a Family Group Conference help you?

It is a process that will support you as a family to develop your own plan for how (with the support of your wider family and friends), you could deal with the concerns that have been raised by Children Services about your child.

It can help to:

- To bring your wider family together.
- To allow you and your child to have a say in your care plans, and the decisions that are being made about you.
- To help you make plans for your child when there are issues or worries.
- To support the people who are looking after a child or young person.
- To make sure that the child sees the people who are important to them.

## What's different about a Family Group Conference?

- Having a FGC is voluntary.
- Everyone's views will be listened to, including the child's.
- The FGC coordinator is neutral and is not on anyone's side.
- The family chooses who to invite to the conference.

## Preparing for a Family Group Conference

- The FGC coordinator will contact you to introduce themselves and explain the FGC process in more detail.
- They will explain the reason the child's social worker has referred them to the FGC team.
- They will go through the worries that children services have and these worries will form the basis for the family plan.
- They can discuss any concerns you might have and can adapt the meeting to suit the needs of the family.

## What happens at a Family Group Conference?

### The information giving stage

At the start, the child's social worker and any other professionals who attend will introduce themselves and give the information they have about the child and explain their concerns.

It is important that you take into account Children Services' concerns when writing your family plan.

This part of the meeting is chaired by the co-ordinator.

### Private family time

The coordinator and professionals can leave the room so that you can write up the family plan in private if you wish. The coordinator will be on hand to provide any advice and information you may need.

The family has three basic tasks:

- To agree a plan that meets the needs of the child.
- To agree back up plans.
- To agree how to monitor and review the plan.