

Bi-Borough ICPC/SFGC Alternative Pathways

This pathway sets out the process when considering families for ICPC/SFGC alternative pathway. All Child Protection investigations and assessment to be completed within 45 days.

1. Strategy Meeting

This should be a key decision meeting/s chaired by a Team Manager to share and consider information with key professionals (including FGC Lead and clinician where possible) to determine if further investigation (joint or single) is required and if threshold is met for a ICPC or SFGC conference pathway.

Where threshold is met, consideration should be given to a Safeguarding Family Group Conference as an alternative pathway:

When considering a Safeguarding Family Group Conference pathway, the following conditions must be met:

- ✓ Consideration of previous history and an understanding of the current risks.
- ✓ Family demonstrate willingness to work with agencies.
- ✓ Identified risks can be managed in the short term by social work safety plan.

Final decision is made by the chair (Team Manager) in consultation with CPA/FSCPA

- For both pathways a CPA/FSCPA, CP business co-ordinator and Clinician should be allocated and part of planning phase
- For both pathways all decisions must be recorded by a manager and CPA/FSCPA
- CP business co-ordinator schedules and co-ordinates all meetings within both pathways, informing network and collating all relevant reports

Where criteria for SFGC are not met/ suitable, or where family choose not to have a SFGC, follow ICPC Pathway set out below

- Where case is considered suitable for SFGC, an offer is made to the family
- Where Family chooses not to take up SFGC offer follow ICPC Pathway
- Where Family choose SFGC, follow Alternative Pathway set out below

2. ICPC Pathway -Planning Meeting

- Meeting Chaired by CPA/FSCPA, Social Worker and Clinician to plan for the ICPC.
- Agree invitation list. Ideally only professionals that have met and know family. Request information from the network in a suitable way to be received and shared with the family prior to the conference. Provide clear deadlines/timescales for information requested.
- Danger statement and bottom lines to be discussed and agreed.
- Consideration given to the risks of online or in person attendance.
- Consideration to how the voice of children/YP are represented in the meeting. Attendance? YP advocate?
- If interpreter is needed, try and ensure consistent same interpreter throughout

2. SFGC Alternative Pathway -Planning

- SW makes referral to FGC Lead
- Conversation between allocated CPA/ FSCPA , SW,FGC Lead and clinician to agree the questions to inform a safety plan to address risks identified by professional network (Any Interim safety plan agreed with family applies until family plan signed off at Family Safeguarding Meeting)
- Danger statement/s and bottom lines discussed and agreed
- Services/resources available to support the family identified.
- Consideration given to participation of child/young person, advocacy etc
- Identify the key professionals who will be working directly with the family to attend the Family Safeguarding Meeting, identify dates for this meeting (chaired by CPA/FSCPA)

Any changes around the assessment of risk, delay or lack of engagement leads to a return to the ICPC pathway.

3. Mapping & Preparation Phase

- Purpose of phase is to help warm the context, share information and develop a shared understanding of risk.
- Family prepare for the conference by producing a mapping they will present to the meeting. S/W engage family in this process and share reports in advance of conference.
- Chair must establish contact with the parents/family during this phase, ideally in person. Family also agree to introduce to SW or Chair family friends they wish to invite to conference meeting.
- Clear expectations and "bottom line" to family.
- Family advised that a CP plan is what is envisaged – focus is on the creation of the plan rather than a decision whether a CP vs. CIN plan. Chair retains the either option.

3. Preparation Phase

- Family meet with Independent Family Group Conference co-ordinator and prepare for the SFGC
- A parent/main carer identifies their support network and who will be invited to their meeting
- Clear expectations of "bottom line", process and intentions explained to family
- Family advised that the focus is on the creation of a plan

Any changes around the assessment of risk, delay or lack of engagement leads to a return to the ICPC pathway.

4. MAIN CONFERENCE MEETING (Held within 20 working days of Strategy meeting) Chaired by CPA/FSCPA and attended by relevant family network and professionals.

Part 1 – Opening & Introduction - Warming the Context
Part 2 - SW & Family Introduce Mapping Work
Part 3 – Multi-Agency Input
Part 4 – Planning*
Part 5 – Conclusion

*Bulk of meeting spent on planning. Ideally 90-minute meetings.

*Chair to consider use of scaling questions & reflecting team interventions

INTENDED IMPACT: Conference is a space for conversation about change, families feel less shame, greater buy-in to the plan, children are better protected

4. Safeguarding FGC held (Held within 20 working days of agreement of family to safeguarding FGC)

- A family led meeting, facilitated, and chaired by an Independent FGC Coordinator who is not an employee of LA
- Family lead decision making process
- A solution focused meeting where the only information shared is a statement of the concerns, information on resources to support the family's plan and an indication of what action the LA may take if the situation does not improve.
- The family network draws up their plan stating who and what they will do to support the child/ren, parents
- At the SFGC there will be private family time where they will discuss and plan

5. Family Safeguarding Network Meeting within 5/10 working days of Safeguarding FGC

- Serviced and recorded by CP business co-ordinator and chaired by CPA/FSCPA (reports and family plan circulated in advance)
- Attended by family members and core group of professionals who will be working with them
- Family share their plan with professionals, all agree how they will work together to implement and resource the plan.
- Agree **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Plan** that includes families plan to address safety goals.
- Arrangements for monitoring progress to replicate the Children Protection Conference review process. Meetings to be chaired by CPA/FSCPA and recorded by co-ordinator at initial meeting and 3 months thereafter, CPA/FSCPA agreements required for next steps.

5. Child is subject of Child Protection Plan.

Core Group Meeting within 10 days of conference

Summary of the meeting to be shared with the family and professional network. This will be a letter (not lengthy minutes) presented in a child/family friendly format including:

- reference made to work undertaken in mapping phase;
- focus on the strengths and resilience shown by family;
- set out the plan agreed.

Consider a child-friendly version using words and pictures.