

Family Group Conference (FGC)

Induction Pack for New Starters

What is an FGC?

A family group conference is a **family-led decision-making process** in which the family and friends network come together to make a plan for a child/ren. The process is supported by an **Independent Coordinator** who helps the family prepare for the family group conference. Children are usually involved in their own family group conference, often with support from an advocate. **It is a voluntary process**, and families cannot be forced to do one.



THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE 2024

More must be done to bring wider family members and friends into decision making. This should start with a high- quality family group decision making process that invites families to come up with a family led plan to care for the child or children.

Our Vision Statement

“Our vision is to create transformative Family Group Conference, Safeguarding Family Group Conference and Lifelong Links services that put children at the heart of everything we do. Through our use of relational practice and family-led decision making, we empower families to take charge of their futures. We are dedicated to keeping children out of care whenever it is safe to do so, maintaining and rebuilding strong family bonds. Together, we aim to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child, fostering hope and resilience in our communities.”



The FGC process

1

Consent and referral

The referral is completed by the Social Worker via mosaic, once Parent/Carer or Young Person has provided verbal consent and identified at least 3 attendees of family and friends.

The referral is submitted via Mosaic to FGC and allocated to an Independent FGC Coordinator.

2

Referral meeting

The FGC Coordinator will contact the Social Worker to arrange a referral discussion.

The FGC Coordinator and Social Worker discuss the family's circumstances and reasons for referral. The FGC Coordinator will support the Social Worker formulate the FGC questions and finalise the agenda.

3

Planning and Preparation

The FGC Coordinator makes contact and visits parent/carer and the wider family network to prepare them for the meeting.

The FGC Coordinator will gather the children's wishes and feelings through direct work, advocate support or observation.

A venue, date and time for the FGC will be arranged, and the FGC Coordinator keeps the Social Worker updated on progress.

4

The day of FGC

There are 3 parts to the FGC:

- 1. Information Sharing** – introductions, ground rules and relevant updates shared by the Social Worker. The family present questions they may have for the Social Worker.
- 2. Private Family Time** – Professionals leave the room, and the family/friend network respond to the Social Worker's questions, creating a plan of support.
- 3. Sharing the Plan** – Once the network agree on the plan, professionals rejoin the family to hear plan. The family's plan should be accepted, supported and resourced, provided it does not put the child or adult at risk of harm.

The FGC Coordinator will type up the family plan which will be distributed to everyone who was part of the process within 5 working days.

5

FGC review

If necessary, the family have the option of an FGC review as a follow up meeting to review and strengthen their FGC plan.

AS PART OF YOUR INDUCTION - GET IN TOUCH

For new starters, we encourage you to connect with the FGC service. This will provide an opportunity to familiarise yourself with our services, understand how you can access it, and explore ways to utilise it effectively to achieve optimal outcomes for families.

We hold virtual weekly drop-ins every Thursday from 2pm-5pm! Reach out to book your time slot, please email: FGC.hf@lbhf.gov.uk

