

# Family Group Conferences

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# The Family Group Conference Model

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# The Referral Process

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The Social Worker must seek agreement to an FGC referral from the parents/carers. The child/young person should be informed of the intention to hold an FGC and seek their views.

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The Social worker submits an FGC referral via Mosaic. If a consultation is needed the Social Worker can email the FGC inbox [FGC.hf@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:FGC.hf@lbhf.gov.uk) for an appointment.

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The FGC Manager meets with the referrer to draft a simple statement of concerns and aims and some agenda questions to help guide the family when making their plan

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Once the referral has been accepted an independent FGC Coordinator will be appointed to work with the family. They will contact the family to explain the process and what is expected of them and arrange the FGC meeting.

## Preparation for the meeting

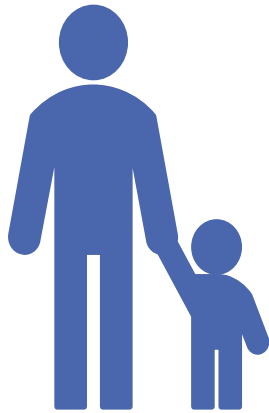
The coordinator, in conjunction with young person, identifies the family network which can include close friends.

Family members and friends invited to the conference will be contacted by the coordinator who will explain what the meeting is about and how it works. They will share the information agreed with the referrer and discuss any worries or concerns family members may have.

The coordinator agrees a venue, date and time for the conference that is convenient for the family and referrer, makes the practical arrangements and sends out invitations

# Wishes & Feelings of the Child/Young Person

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The FGC Coordinator will find out the views and wishes of the child/young person and make sure they are shared with everyone at the FGC.

Sometimes children attend the FGC and want to speak for themselves. They will be supported to do this.

An Advocate can be requested to attend on the child/young person's behalf and speak for them.

# At the Meeting

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## **Information giving**

This is where the referrer explains what they are worried about and why a plan is needed. There may be staff from other agencies, who are there to give the family information about services, resources and support they can offer. This part of the meeting is chaired by the coordinator.

## **Private family time**

Staff and the coordinator are not present during this part. The family members have time to talk among themselves and come up with a plan that addresses the concerns raised by the referrer.

## **Agreeing the plan**

The coordinator and referrer re-join the family to hear the family's plan. Any services or support from the agencies needed to make the plan work are discussed. The plan should be agreed by the agencies unless it places the child or young person at risk of significant harm. Everybody decides how they will check if the plan is working and what they will do if it is not working.

# The Reviewing The Plan

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The family implement the plan with the support of family members and resources agreed at the FGC.

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There will need to be checks to ensure that everyone is doing what they have agreed to.

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A forum is identified where how the plan is working will be monitored and changes made if needed as circumstances change. This could be an existing process within the service such as a CIN meeting or a review FGC could be convened