

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

A Family Group Conference is a meeting that brings together family members and others close to the family to try and make the best plan for the child/ren



Children's Services believe that families can often make the best decisions about their children and want to work alongside you to make sure you get the support and assistance you need.

## Who organises an FGC?

### **The Family Group Conference Coordinator.**

The FGC Coordinator is independent from Children's Services, they are neutral. They have the responsibility to organise and chair your Family Group Conference.

They will:

- ✓ Meet with you and your child/ren to identify the people who should be invited to the meeting
- ✓ Send out the invitations to the FGC
- ✓ Find the right time and place to have the meeting
- ✓ Make all the practical arrangements
- ✓ Help organise travel and refreshments
- ✓ Chair the FGC meeting and make sure everyone feels safe
- ✓ Make sure that the child/ren's views are heard in the meeting
- ✓ Type up your Family Plan and make sure everyone gets a copy

## Who should come to an FGC?

You decide who is invited to the meeting. The best people will be those who know you and care about you - your family, plus friends and neighbours who feel like your family, as well as professionals who can help with information and advice. The FGC Coordinator can help you to decide who should be invited to come to the FGC.

It is the FGC Coordinator's responsibility to contact the family or friends that you have identified and tell them about the FGC. The FGC Coordinator will help with any worries you or others may have and make sure that everyone feels safe.

The FGC Coordinator will find out the views and wishes of your child/ren 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. Sometimes someone will attend on the child/ren's behalf and speak for them. This person is called an Advocate

## What happens at an FGC?

### The 3 Stages of a Family Group Conference

#### 1. Information Sharing

The workers most closely involved will explain to the family why they are worried about the child/ren and tell them about the support available to the family.

This is also the part where the children's views are shared.

#### 2. Private Family Time

This is time for the family to talk in private so that they can:

- discuss the information provided
- work out and agree a plan
- decide who will be responsible for each aspect of the plan
- decide what support they need
- decide how they can check the plan is working
- come up with a back-up plan in case it is needed

#### 3. Sharing the Family Plan

Once the family have agreed the plan, they will discuss it with the coordinator and social worker. The plan will be accepted unless it places the child/ren at risk or does not address the original concerns.

My FGC Coordinator is:

Phone number:

If you are unhappy with our service and would like to raise your concerns, please contact:

The FGC Manager  
145 King Street  
Hammersmith  
W6 9XY

Tel: 0208 753 5125  
Email: [FGC.hf@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:FGC.hf@lbhf.gov.uk)

*Children's Services think Family Group Conferences are a good idea because they give families and professionals a way of working together to try and make sure children are safe and cared for by their own families*



## Family Group Conferences

Working with you  
and your family