

A Guide for Young People



Family Group Conferencing



What is a family group conference?

A family group conference (FGC) is a meeting where you, your family and people close to you come together to make plans for your future. This can include family members like your mum, dad, aunts, uncles and cousins as well as people close to you like family friends.

The meeting will be about you, so it is important that you are involved as much as you can be in the decision to have an FGC as well as helping to decide when and where it will happen.

At the FGC you and your family can discuss things in private and with other people there.

What is the point of it?

The purpose of a FGC is to help you and your family make a plan for your future.

What happens before the FGC?

A co-ordinator will work with you and your family to set up the FGC. You should tell them the names of all the people you think should be invited. They will talk to you about when and where you would like the meeting to be held.

It will be good if you can think about what you want to get out of the meeting.

The co-ordinator is there to help and support you – but not to make decisions for you or your family. It is for you, your family and people that work with you to agree the best way forward.

Can I have someone to support me at the meeting?

Some young people have an advocate - a person to help them think about what they want to say at the meeting. If you want an advocate the coordinator can help you find someone. Some people prefer to bring a friend to the meeting, and some ask a family member to support them at the meeting.

What actually happens at the FGC?

There are three parts to the meeting:

First, agency workers clearly explain the concerns they have and the reasons for these.

Secondly when you're ready, you and your family will be left alone to sort things out and decide on a plan.

At the last part of the meeting, when you and your family have agreed on a plan, the co-ordinator will rejoin you and go over it with you. As long as the plan meets the professionals' concerns, they will then offer to work with you and your family to put your plan into action.

Meetings usually take between one and three hours, but there will be time for breaks.

Do I have to come?

No, but this is your meeting and it is important that your views are heard. You can come for part of the meeting or ask your advocate to attend on your behalf - talk to your co-ordinator about what you want.

What happens if things get difficult?

At any time during the FGC, you can ask the co-ordinator to help, even in the private family time. If things aren't going well or you think you or someone else is not being listened to, you can ask the co-ordinator to help out.

What happens afterwards?

Your co-ordinator will set a date with you, when your family's plan will be reviewed to see that it is working.

We hope that we have answered some of your questions, but if there is anything else that you would like to ask your co-ordinator will be able to answer your questions.

Contact details of your co-ordinator

Name

Phone