



Family Group Conferences

A family group conference can bring positive changes to you and your family!

Your Family, Your Problems, Your Decision...

What is a family group conference?

A family group conference is a decision making meeting to sort out family problems. This offers family members, including children and young people, a chance to get together to agree a solution.

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 Your Family Matters

Why have a family group conference?

We believe that families know more about their situation than professionals and can often make better decisions and plans for their children. Our aim is to support families in doing this.

How does a family group conference work?

Before the conference

A coordinator:

- > Will meet each family member to help them prepare for the meeting,
- > Decide who should be invited and when and where the meeting should take place
- > Will support children and young people to play

Information shared with the coordinator will remain confidential unless it poses a risk to someone.

During the conference

There are three stages to family group conferences

Stage 1: Information giving

The workers most closely involved will explain to the family:

- > Why they are worried about the child/young person.
- > What resources and services are available to support the family.

The family may ask for any additional information they may need to help with the plan.

Stage 2: Private family time

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

- > Discuss the information given.
- > Work out and agree a plan.
- > Decide who will do what.
- > Decide what support they need.
- > Decide how they can check the plan is working.
- > Come up with a contingency plan.

Stage 3: Agreeing the Plan

Once the family have agreed the plan:

- > This is then shared with the co-ordinator and social worker

The Plan will be accepted unless it places the child/young person at risk or does not address the original concerns.

After the conference

The plan will then be written up by the co-ordinator and copies will be sent to everyone involved in the plan.

What if there is no agreement at the conference?

If families cannot agree a safe plan it may be possible to hold another family group conference. If this is not possible alternative ways of resolving these concerns will be made by Children's Social Care and the co-ordinator.

