

Sometimes children and young people may find it difficult to give their views in a family meeting. The coordinator will work with the family to find someone to help with this. We want children and young people to be at the heart of the Family Group Conference.

Questions

What if my family will find it hard to talk together/argue/won't sit in a room together?

The coordinator will try to find a way of managing this. We can use separate rooms or get people on the phone, or bring their views to the meeting in another way. Adults sometimes have advocates too.

How can I have a Family Group Conference?

Someone who is working with you will need to make a referral. You can give them this leaflet or ask them to phone the Early Help Hub on **01872 322277** to find out what to do next.

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall,
Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

e: equality@cornwall.gov.uk
t: 0300 1234 100



Together 
for Families

Family Group Conference in Cornwall

Information for families



What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a family meeting which gives families an opportunity to have a say about their future.

FGCs are unique because the main decision makers in the development of a plan are family members such as mums, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and family friends.

It is also expected that children and young people will make a major contribution to the conference. They can attend the FGC, for all or part of the time, or they can add their views another way.

The family group are supported by an independent coordinator, who will help them to prepare for the FGC and who will make all of the necessary arrangements.

The family group gets together with professionals to make a plan and decide how to resolve the situation. They will then have the chance to review their plan a few weeks later to see what is working and what needs to be improved.

How do FGC's work?

Request

Someone who is working with you, such as a social worker or teacher, gains your consent to make a referral for an FGC. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Your family agrees for relevant information to be shared with people attending the meeting.

Preparation

An independent coordinator will contact you and arrange to meet with everyone involved.



What does 'independent coordinator' mean?

The coordinator is not involved with your family in any way and does not have a say about what happens.

The Meeting

There are 3 parts to an FGC:

- The referrer will share any concerns that will affect what can be agreed in the plan. This will also be an opportunity for the family members to ask questions.
- Private family time when you and your family are left alone to talk and agree a plan.
- Sharing the plan - after your family has agreed your plan you can share it with the referrer. The independent coordinator will type it up for you.

The coordinator will always be available to sort out any problems.

Your family plan will be agreed by the service provider unless it does not keep your child safe.

Review

After 2 or 3 months you will be invited to meet again to celebrate successes and make any changes needed to your plan.

Advocates

Your coordinator will ask if anyone wants an advocate to help their voice be heard.