



What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference is a family meeting. It is arranged when there are worries about a child or young person, and a plan for their future needs to be made. The family, relatives and anyone else who is important to the child or young person is invited.

Can I go to the meeting?

Yes, it is a meeting about you, and you are a very important person at the meeting. You will have the chance to say what you think, and you can bring along someone to support you, to help you talk to your family.

Who else will be there?

Your Social Worker and anyone else who is working with you, eg your Teacher.

How does it happen?

An Independent Co-ordinator, that is a person who does not know you or your family, will meet with you and the people who look after you to talk about the meeting. This person will ask you who you think would be important people to invite to the family meeting and will go and talk to them. The Co-ordinator will arrange the meeting when it suits you and your family.

What happens at the meeting?

The Co-ordinator starts off the meeting by introducing everyone. Your Social Worker explains to the family what they are worried about and what needs to change.

Then, the Social Worker and the Co-ordinator leave the room so that you and your family can talk together in private, and make a plan to help you.

When you have done this, the Co-ordinator and Social Worker come back to your family meeting to hear what you have all planned together.

The Social Worker will usually OK the plan as long as they are sure that you are properly cared for and that the plan is the best way forward for you.

Usually another family meeting is held after about three months to check that everything is going well.

Family Group Conferences

a guide for children
and young people



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