

Family Group Conferencing Service

A Guide for Families and Friends



Name of FGC Coordinator

Contact Details

Why should we have a Family Group Conference (FGC)?

- Family Group Conference is an independent service for families who are currently being supported by Warwickshire County Council Children and Families.
- A Family Group Conference is a way to bring your children, family and friends together to build on your strengths, problem-solve and make the best possible plan for the children.
- FGC gives you the opportunity to decide how to deal with the challenges in a way that makes sense to you and your family and keeps your children safe and well.

Every family faces challenges from time to time, this is normal.

How will you be involved?

A trained, independent FGC Coordinator (who is not a social worker) will meet with you and support you to identify who you would like to attend your FGC.

Your FGC Coordinator will then meet with all the people you have chosen, to explain how the FGC will work.

Your coordinator will work with you to plan when and where you would like your FGC to take place.

As your coordinator is independent, they will have no other professional role and no involvement in any decision making.

How will the children be involved?

It is really important that the children or young people are involved in the FGC process. Your coordinator may ask to talk to the children to explain about FGC and make sure they are happy and comfortable with the idea.

The children may attend the FGC or they can choose to share their views through the coordinator, an identified key worker or an independent advocate.

An advocate is someone who can support the children at the meeting to put their views and wishes across. It is important for everyone to listen to the children to understand the support that they require.



What happens at your Family Group Conference?

Information sharing

This part of the meeting will be led by the FGC Coordinator. The children's social worker (or other agreed worker) will be asked to talk about what is going well, their concerns and how they can offer support to you and your family.

Other agencies attending the meeting will then share their offers of support and there will be time for any questions you or your family have. The children's views and wishes will be shared during this part of the meeting.



"It gives you the freedom to make your own decisions and take responsibility."

Private family time

The coordinator and other agencies are not present for this part of the meeting.

You and your family will have time to talk and create a plan which you feel will improve things and reduce the concerns.

If you need any support, your coordinator can re-join you. They are not there to make any decisions, just to work with you to put together a plan that suits you and your family.

"FGC brought our family together and allowed us privacy and time to discuss and make our agreed plan."

Agreeing the plan

Once you are happy with your plan, the coordinator and other agencies will re-join and you can share your plan.

As long as it covers the issues, makes improvements to the children's lives and helps keep them safe, it should be agreed by the social worker (or other agreed worker).



What happens after the meeting?

Your coordinator will send a copy of your plan to everyone who was a part of your FGC. They may create and send a child-friendly version of the plan for the children.

You will be offered a review meeting to see what is working well and what might need to be changed or added to your family plan.



"It made everyone think about the solutions and work out together how to make some positive changes. It gives families their independence to plan for the children, and confidence in knowing that they can make changes."

Feedback and further information

We will send you a link via text message or email for you to complete a short feedback form about how you felt the meeting went and what we can do to improve the FGC Service. You can also complete the feedback form by scanning the QR code below using your smartphone camera.



If you have any comments or complaints about our service, or should you require access to this information in a different format e.g. braille, large print, or another language, please contact us on:

Telephone: 01926 414147

fgc@warwickshire.gov.uk

"It was great how the service is independent to the other people involved."



**CHILDREN
& FAMILY
SUPPORT**



**Warwickshire
County Council**