

Family Network Service



Family Network Meetings (FNM)

A guide for
family and
friends

Name of FNM Coordinator

Contact details



Why should we have a Family Network Meeting (FNM)?

- A FNM is an independent service for families who are currently being supported by Warwickshire County Council Children and Families.
- It 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
- The meeting 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.



How will you be involved?

A trained, independent FNM Coordinator will meet with you and support you to identify who you would like to attend your FNM.

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

Your coordinator will work with you to plan when and where you would like your FNM 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 FNM process. Your coordinator may ask to talk to the children to explain about FNM and make sure they are happy and comfortable with the idea.

The children may attend the FNM 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.

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

What happens at your Family Network Meeting?

Part 1: Information sharing

This part of the meeting will be led by the FNM 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.



“FNM brought our family together and allowed us privacy and time to discuss and make our agreed plan.”

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

Part 2: 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.

Part 3: 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 FNM. 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 you, to complete a short feedback form about how you felt the meeting went and what we can do to improve the service.

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**
fns@warwickshire.gov.uk

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



Financial support

Financial support may be offered to extended family or friends to support parents to continue to care for their children safely to avoid them going into care. The Family Network Coordinator will work with the network members to identify any practical or financial support that may help parents to continue caring for their children.

Examples of what the funding could be used for:

- Transport i.e. Petrol, bus pass, railcard, bigger car, car seat for family / friends.
- Travel i.e flights and or accommodation for family/friends to support parents
- Beds, bedding, bedroom furniture, sofa beds for children staying over in the homes of extended family/friends
- Access to leisure activities for the children to join in with their families and friends. Days out, swimming, cinema, football, parks, bowling, amusement parks, Sea life Centre etc.

When the funding CAN be used:

- The family must have a Family Network Meeting to decide how to use the funding.
- The funding can only go to network members to assist them to support the family.
- A parent must have parental responsibility.

When the funding CAN'T be used:

- The funding cannot go to network members if they hold a child arrangement order or a special guardianship order.
- The funding cannot be used to fulfil a gap that another service normally provides.

A Family Network Meeting was previously known as a Family Group Conference

For more information about Family Network Meetings (FNM) scan the QR Code:



Warwickshire Family Information Service

Contact the Family Information Service (FIS) for a wide range of information relating to children and young people aged 0 – 25 including, but not limited to:

- Childcare
- Money and benefits
- Housing
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Health and wellbeing



Scan me

Freephone call the team on **0800 408 1558**
Monday – Friday, **9am – 5pm**,
or email fis@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Scan the QR code for the website
or visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

