

Family Network Service



Family Network Meetings (FNM)

A guide
for young
people

Your FNM coordinator

Their contact number



What is a Family Network Meeting?

A Family Network Meeting is a meeting where you, your family and others who care about you, meet together and decide on a plan that will help with challenges you may be facing.

Meetings like this have been used successfully for many years because no one is better placed than you and your family to make things better.

They aren't about people telling you and your family what you should do, they are about you and your family suggesting what's best and knowing that there will be support available to help make it work.

Meeting may involve your parents and siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents and close family friends- anyone who you think can help sort things. They talk together about how things can be done differently, to ensure all the children in the family feel happier and safer.

All families are different and often have problems. Getting everyone together to think and talk about these can make a difference.



How will you be supported?

The FNM will be facilitated by an independent co-ordinator who will have no other professional role with the family and will have no involvement in any professional decision making.

A Family Network Co-ordinator will agree with you the details of your meeting (such as when and where it takes place.)

You can have someone to support you to say what you want, an advocate. This could be a special person who you already know and trust or someone we can arrange for you, whose job is to support children and young people at meetings.



At the meeting



Your co-ordinator and advocate will be there on the day, not to make decisions for you but to support you, your family and anyone else invited, to agree on how things could be better. Other useful people will be invited to your meeting if everyone thinks they could help-like a teacher or a social worker.

At any time during the meeting, you can ask the co-ordinator for support, even in the private family time, if things aren't going well, or you think you or someone else is not being listened to.

You can take a break from the meeting at any time, if you feel this would be helpful.

What happens at the meeting?

The Family Network meeting has three parts:

Part one: Introduction

The workers will clearly explain to everyone the concerns they have and what support they can offer.

Part two: Family time

You and your family will be left alone, for private family time, so that you can talk things over and decide on a plan that you can all work with and that suits your family.

Part three: Agreeing the plan

Everyone, including the workers, look at the plan. If it is agreed that it covers all the concerns, will make improvements and keep you safe, it usually agreed. Any support needed to help you and your family stick to the plan will be discussed. It's then up to you and your family to make the plan work.

After the meeting

You will be offered a follow up meeting to review your family's plan and ensure that it is working for everyone. Your co-ordinator will set a date with you. They will also ask you to complete a simple questionnaire so that you can have the chance to say how you thought the meeting went and if we could have done anything differently. We hope that we have answered some of your questions but if there is anything else that you would like to ask, please talk to your co-ordinator.

"A Family Network Meeting makes people feel that they matter".

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments or complaints about our services, please let us know. Any member of staff will be pleased to help you:

Family Network Service (Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL)

Tel: 01926 414147

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