

Family Network Service



Family Network Meetings (FNM)

A guide for
Referrers
and Involved
Agencies

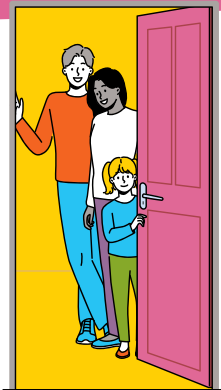
To make a referral or enquiry please call
Warwickshire Family Network Service on
01926 414147 or email fns@warwickshire.gov.uk



What is Family Network Meeting?

Family Network Meetings are held to benefit children and families where a decision and plan needs to be made around children and young people to keep them safe or improve their well being.

A family will usually be made up of the young person's carers and relevant important others, such as extended family, siblings and close family friends. The link between these people is that they all have a significant role in the young person's life. The young person may also choose to contribute by other means if they feel unable to attend the Meeting.



Who can refer?

Referrals come from Children and Families workers at all levels from Early Helps to Children in Care. In order to proceed to the meeting, consent from the PR holder is required, and family agreement is sought.

What is the role of the Family Network Co-ordinator?

Referrals come from Children and Families workers at all levels from Early Helps to Children in Care. In order to proceed to the meeting, consent from the PR holder is required, and family agreement is sought.

The Family Network Co-ordinator will meet with the child/ young person and the individual family members in preparation for the family meeting. This will be to answer questions, discuss concerns and plan for the meeting. The Family Network Co-ordinator will support you to prepare for the meeting and will facilitate the meeting and offer a review.

“It really helped the family to express opinions in a safe, controlled environment.”

The meeting will be made up of 3 parts:

Information Sharing

The referrer and agencies explain to everyone what their concerns are, giving clear information to the family regarding, available support for the future, what strengths the family can build upon and what the next steps might be if the family can't create a plan to address the concerns.

Private family time

The family are left alone to discuss the situation and put together a plan to address and resolve the concerns. The Family Network Co-ordinator is still available to the family if required.

Agreeing the plan

When the family are ready, the workers will re-join them so that the family can explain their plan and the referrer can say if they feel this meets the concerns that were raised. The referrer may be asked to offer support and resources and provide any suitable signposting to other support services.

On completion of the family meeting, a review meeting will be offered to the family to consider the effectiveness of the plan. It's up to the family, with support from the agency workers, to make the plan work.



Some important things to remember:

At the heart of the idea of a Family Network Meeting is the involvement of the young person or child. It is important that (s)he is listened to and his/her views and ideas given value, by everyone that attends. The child is at the centre.

The aim of the meeting is to empower the young person and the family to come up with a plan that looks to resolve problems and make changes.

It is the role of the Family Network Co-ordinator to keep things on track and be available to assist, support and

deal with any issues that may arise from the dynamics of the family.

Because of the nature of the meeting, it may be daunting for some staff to be excluded from some parts of the meeting and to be faced with a different process for decision-making. Research shows, however, that this method of engaging young people and families consistently provides positive results.

“My FNM experience was good very calm and relaxed. Open and comfortable atmosphere to talk in.”

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**



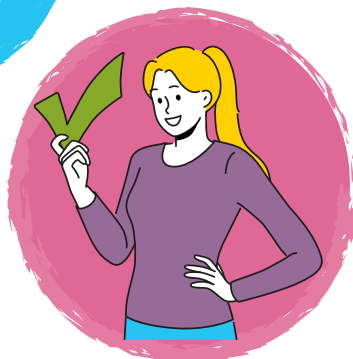
Feedback from referrers:

"I think the family coped well, the dynamics meant it was going to be difficult but I think the outcome was a very healthy one."

"I find it hard to find fault with the FNM process. It was so effective in bringing the family together & empowering them. I think they found it very validating & supportive, especially for the mother. I can see the positive impact on the children."

"I thought it was a really useful experience for the family and I felt that it was organised well. It was also useful to attend too, so I was aware of the outcomes of the discussion and what to follow up on."

"The group was controlled well. People didn't talk over each other. It was solution focussed. It helped the family look to the future".



The meeting will be made up of 3 parts:

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 CAN'T the funding 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.

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.

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**

