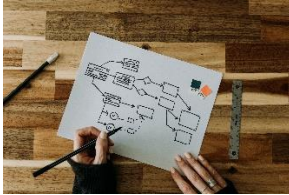


What is a Family Group Conference?



A Family Group Conference is a meeting for your family. Your family can include the wider family or friends. Children can go to the meeting.



A Family Group Conference happens when something difficult is happening.

The meeting is to plan how to cope with it. Your family is in control of the decisions made at the meeting.

Questions for your family to answer at the meeting will be agreed beforehand.



Professionals will be there. Professionals work for organisations helping your family. For example, a social worker, school teacher, or doctor. Professionals will give you information to help you and your family make your plan.

A professional called a Referrer will also be there. They are the person who asked for a Family Group Conference. The Referrer is often a Social Worker.



An Independent Coordinator will be at the meeting. An Independent Coordinator is not employed by the Local Authority. They help families prepare for the Family Group Conference.



An Advocate might be at the meeting. They help someone communicate their thoughts and feelings. That person is often a child.

How do we prepare for the Family Group Conference?



The parent or parents will be visited by the Independent Coordinator. They will help them to prepare for the Family Group Conference.

They will help them decide who to invite.
They will help them decide when the meeting will be.
They will help them decide where to have the meeting.

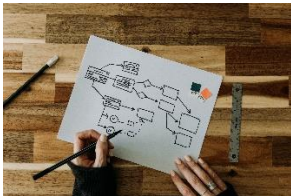
They will discuss the questions to answer to help the family make their plan.



The Independent Coordinator will speak to everyone invited. They will make sure that everyone understands what is happening.

If anyone needs help at the meeting, they will arrange the help.

What happens at the Family Group Conference Meeting?



The meeting is in three parts.

Part 1 is Information Sharing, Part 2 is Private Family Time, and Part 3 is Agreement of the Plan.



In Part 1 or 'Information Sharing' the Independent Coordinator leads a conversation.

The Professionals share what difficult things have been happening. You can ask questions.

The questions your family needs to answer at the meeting will be confirmed.



In Part 2 or 'Private Family Time' the Professionals and the Independent Coordinator leave the room.

Your family talks about the questions. Your answers will help you make your plan.



In Part 3 or 'Agreement of the Plan' the Independent Coordinator and the Referrer comes back into the room.

You share your plan.

The Independent Coordinator will ask some questions. They will make sure everyone understands the plan. They will check that the plan will work.

The Referrer will need to agree that the plan is safe and manageable.

What happens after a Family Group Conference Meeting?



Your family will have agreed on a plan. The Independent Coordinator will give the plan to everyone in your family.



Someone in your family will check everyone is following the plan. This person is called the Monitor.



Your family might have a second meeting to talk about the plan. This meeting is called a 'Review'.

The Review is to talk about if the plan is being followed. This is normally three months later.

How can I contact my Independent Coordinator?



Your Independent Coordinator's name is [Insert name]

Their phone number is [insert number]



You can also phone Daybreak. Daybreak is the organization that your Independent Coordinator works for.

Daybreak is a charity. Daybreak works with families and communities. Daybreak is not the Local Authority.

Daybreak's phone number is: 02380 696644

Daybreak's email address is:
headoffice@daybreakfgc.org.uk

Glossary

Family Group Conference: A Family Group Conference is a meeting for your family. The meeting is a time for your family to make decisions.

Independent Coordinator: An Independent Coordinator is a person not employed by the Local Authority. They help families get ready for the Family Group Conference.

Referrer: The Professional who has asked for the Family Group Conference. This person is often a Social Worker.

Advocate: Someone who attends the meeting to help another person communicate their thoughts and feelings.

Monitor: A monitor is someone in your family. They are asked to make sure everyone follows the plan.

Review: A second meeting to talk about how well everyone is following the plan.