

What is a Family Group Conference (FGC)?

Every family is unique. All families come up with problems from time to time.

We believe that children, young people and families know themselves best.

A Family Group Conference is a meeting of family, relatives and friends to come together to find out what is happening for the children and to talk about how to sort out any problems.

Who is the Family Group Conference Coordinator?

- The Co-ordinator is an independent person whose job is to organise and co-ordinate the meeting.
- The co-ordinator will visit you and your child/young person and agree who will be invited to attend the meeting.
- The co-ordinator will give you all the information you need about the FGC and reasons for it.
- The co-ordinator can arrange for any additional support if needed, for example, interpreter or an advocate.



Who attends a Family Group Conference?

- The child or young person is invited to come along to all or part of the meeting, but it is their choice. If they prefer they could have what is called an advocate to support them to have their voice heard.
- Anyone who cares about the child or young person can be invited: close family, other relatives including those at a distance and family friends.
- The agency who referred you to the FGC Service.
- Any other agencies working with your family that you want to invite (*and who can give information to support you to find solutions*).

Where is the meeting held?

- Family Group Conferences take place outside the family home at a time and place to suit everyone attending. Your co-ordinator will discuss the options with you.

What happens at a Family Group Conference?

There are four stages to a Family Group Conference:

1. Information Sharing

- The co-ordinator will chair this part of the meeting and welcome everyone.
- The referrer and any other agencies invited will share information.
- The co-ordinator will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to discuss the difficulties and are clear about the decisions that need to be made.

2. Private Family Time

- The co-ordinator and the agencies will leave the room.
- Your job as a family group is to decide the best way forward for your child.
- You will agree a plan, decide who does what and decide how you can check the plan is working.
- The co-ordinator will be available if you need more information, help or refreshments.

3. Clarifying the Plan

- The co-ordinator can help the family make sure that all the questions are covered, the plan is written down and that everyone agrees to their part in the plan.

4. Agreeing the Plan

- The referrer rejoins the meeting to hear the plan.
- Your family can discuss what support you need from the agencies to make the plan work.
- Your plan will be accepted provided it is safe for the child/young person and you have addressed the agencies concerns.
- Usually a date will be agreed for a review meeting.



What happens next?

- The co-ordinator will make sure that everyone invited gets a copy of the plan.
- For the plan to work everyone needs to do their part to make it happen.
- The co-ordinator will organise a review FGC to discuss progress since the first FGC and to make any changes needed to the plan.

“Good to talk and to listen too”

Young person

“Things moved on more than I would’ve thought, which was encouraging”

Parent

“After initial strained emotion from both sides, we were able to come up with a plan”

Grandparent

For further information:

If you need any further information or there is anything you are concerned about, you can speak with your coordinator.

Your independent coordinator is:

Telephone:

Email:

FGC@milton-keynes.gov.uk

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/FGC

MK Milton Keynes
City Council



A guide for family and friends.

Family Group
Conference Service

‘Families making decisions’

MK Milton Keynes
City Council

