

What is an FGC?

An FGC is a solution focused family-led meeting where extended family members and friends are invited to come together, to discuss and resolve the issues the family is facing.

When could an FGC help?

- Reduce the risk of children becoming looked after.
- Reduce the risk of family breakdown.
- Give families the opportunity to make safe and appropriate plans for their children.
- Empowers and supports children to take an active role in their family plan.
- Explore and build upon the family and community support network to reduce the risk of the family requiring further intervention.
- Builds on family and community strengths.

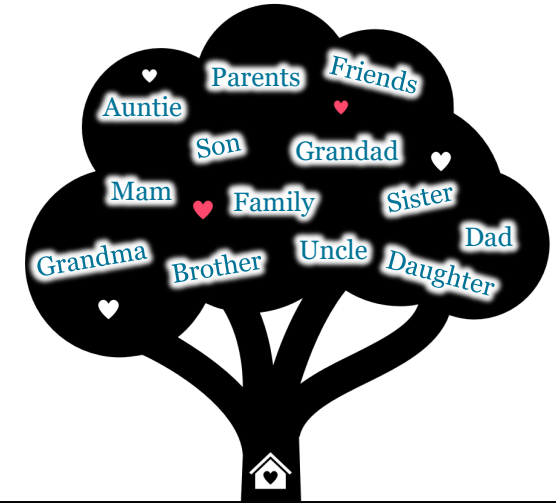
Consent

Refer Expectations As the referrer, you must:

- Have consent from the family.
- Be clear and realistic about the worries and risks the family plan should address.
- Set the key question and bottom-line.
- Be available to attend the FGC.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Family Group Conference

Professionals information

Family Group Conference (FGC) is an **independent** and **voluntary** service that empowers and supports families to create realistic and positive plans.

As the referrer, you are supporting and empowering the family to create their own plan. The plan must be safe, legal and meet the bottom line.

What happens at an FGC?

Information Sharing

This is the first part of the meeting.

As the referrer you will explain what you hope the family will achieve with their plan and answer questions the family may have in relation to the plan.

You must be clear on what decisions need to be made.

No new information is to be shared at the conference.

Private Family Time

Professionals leave the room.

Family and support network are left alone to make a plan that addresses the worries and concerns discussed during the preparation stage.

Agreeing the plan

The professionals return to the room.

A family member shares the plan.

The plan must be agreed if it is safe, legal and meets the bottom line.

Family will agree a review date and time.

What is the Bottom Line?

The bottom line is the desired outcome of the FGC.

This is where you are very clear with the family about what you, as the referrer, are hoping the family will achieve with their plan.

You must include what you are worried may happen if the bottom-line is not met.

Example:

I hope that a family plan can be agreed upon, that supports the children to remain in the care of their mum and dad, with the support of family and friends.

Without this I am worried the children's needs may not be met.

We can ask the family to explore a contingency plan.

Example:

If the children cannot safely remain in the care of mum and dad, who is able and willing to be assessed to care for the children?

How to Request an FGC?

You **MUST** have consent from the family to make a referral.

- Contact **Faith Hirst** to arrange a meeting to discuss the family you want to refer. Faith will work with you to create the key question and points to consider to guide the family during the process.
- Faith.Hirst@Darlington.gov.uk
- If an FGC is appropriate, an FGC facilitator will be assigned.

How to request an Emergency Family Network?

You **MUST** have consent from the family to make a referral.

- 1) Are the children at immediate risk of becoming looked after?
- 2) Are the children at immediate risk of significant harm?

If the answer is yes to the above, please contact Faith Hirst to arrange a discussion.

Faith.Hirst@Darlington.gov.uk