



**Family group conferences  
give families a central  
role in making decisions.**

For more information please see the  
Family Rights Group website: [frg.org.uk](http://frg.org.uk)

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All our Family Group Conference Coordinators have attended  
accredited training

*Just Psychology CIC is a not-for profit social enterprise. We are a  
multidisciplinary group of professionals providing services to address  
the psychological and mental health needs of children, adults and  
families, with particular emphasis on cultural diversity, cultural  
competence and social justice.*



# Family Group Conferences



## Information for professionals

## What is a family group conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a family-led decision making process. It is transparent, culturally centred and solution focused. It provides families with an opportunity to come together to make safe and reasonable plans for their children.

The FGC brings together the formal professional process with the informal family and community approach. It accepts a basic premise that families are properly informed and resourced. They are given the power and opportunity to be able to protect their own vulnerable children.

## Who can access a family group conference?

Referrals can be taken from social workers involved with a family where a child is under the age of 18 years and who:

- \* would benefit from a FGC in order to prevent a family breakdown, and would otherwise be at risk of becoming looked after or being made subject of a Child Protection Plan.
- \* is looked after and there is a care plan for his/her return to family (rehabilitation) which would benefit from a further implementation plan being drawn up by the family members.
- \* is subject to a Care Order, is living with extended family members, there is a care plan for the order to be transferred to a Residence Order or Special Guardianship but issues need to be resolved within the family before the care plan can proceed or be fully recognised.
- \* is accommodated by relatives or foster carers, if the placement has become unstable.

FGCs are offered to young people and their families who **want to engage in the process** to resolve their differences.

The allocated social worker will:

- provide information about the family's strengths as well as their needs and difficulties: what will need to be included in the plan to meet Social Care requirements (the bottom line); what will happen if the concerns are not addressed.
- liaise with a team manager about what resources are available to the family to enable them to resolve their difficulties.
- attend the FGC, which may take place out of office hours.
- attend a second or subsequent FGC with the family as part of the plan's monitoring and review process.

## Why hold a family group conference?

**Research demonstrates that the FGC model can reduce the numbers of children becoming 'looked after', or prevent a child becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan.**

Its principles are based on the fact that families have knowledge about themselves that professionals cannot easily match and are therefore able to make better decisions in relation to themselves. This process empowers them to make positive decisions about their children.

