

What happens next?

When the family have made their decision, the co-ordinator will go over their plan with them. Unless it is considered that the decisions and plan made by the family will put the child or young person in danger, the plan will be accepted.

The co-ordinator will take the plan away and circulate a copy to all those that have been involved.

What happens if we do not agree with the plan?

We will only disagree with the plan if we think it will leave the child or young person at risk in some way. If this is the case, we will explain the reasons to the family who then might decide to hold another conference to change the plan.



Where can I find out more about a Family Group Conference?

Web: www.torbay.gov.uk/fgc

Email: FGC.referrals@torbay.gov.uk

Phone: 01803 208543

Comments and complaint

We welcome any comments to try and improve our services. If you want to make any suggestions or you have a complaint, please ask your co-ordinator for a form. The forms can also be accessed via our website: www.torbay.gov.uk/childrens-complaints



Family Group Conference Service

Information for professionals

We believe families are able to make better decisions about their children than we as professionals can.

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a process led by family members to plan and make decisions for their child.

FGCS's put the children and young people at the heart of the decision making process. They are extremely effective in making safe plans for children, improving outcomes and promoting positive changes. Taking part in a FGC is a voluntary process, and although families cannot be forced into have a FGC the process has lots of benefits.

Benefits

- It encourages family decision making and gives the family the opportunity to formulate their own plan
- It improves outcomes for children
- It promotes positive changes for children
- It helps improve family dynamics and rebuild relationships
- It ensures that the child's voice is heard
- It keeps the child at the centre of decision making
- It is effective in enabling children to stay within their family network
- It helps improve relationships between the family and professionals

How to make a referral

Referrals are made to the FGC Service by the social worker.

If you are working with a family who has a social worker allocated and believe that they would benefit from an FGC, you can discuss this directly with the social worker.



What happens at a Family Group Conference?

The first part of the process is led by a co-ordinator who will help the family get together at an agreed time and place. The co-ordinator will ensure that we give the family a clear and straightforward account of the concerns that have been raised, and what financial and other assistance could be available.

What is my role on the Family Group Conference?

Any professionals involved in the child or young person's life, will be invited to the first part of the FGC to provide information to the family on the help their service can provide to help with their decision making.

All professionals will then be asked to leave the family so they can talk and make decisions in private. You should ensure you leave the family with as much information as possible about any support they can access from your service, for example leaflets.

