

What happens if Children's Services do not agree with our plan?

If we disagree with the plan, we will explain the reasons to you. But we would only disagree with your plan if we think it will leave you at risk in some way. If this is the case, your family might decide to hold another conference to come up with a new plan. What is most important is getting the right plan in place for you and your family.



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

Talk: talk to your social worker

Web: www.torbay.gov.uk/fgc

Email: FGC.referrals@torbay.gov.uk

Phone: 01803 208543

Comments and complaints

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 children and young people

We believe that your family are able to make far better decisions for you than we can.

A Family Group Conference (FGC) offers you and your family members the chance to get together and talk about what is happening in your life, and how any decisions are going to affect you, without any professionals being there.

It may seem like a scary thing to do, but it has lots of benefits and you will have a co-ordinator who will be there to help you every step of the way.



Why am I having a meeting?

The main aim of a Family Group Conference is to put you and what is best for you at the heart of the decision making process.

Your social worker has made a referral to us, asking us to help you and your family come together and make a plan about your future.

It's your choice

We would like you to be involved in your Family Group Conference and it will only go ahead if your parent's agree to it. You also get a say where and when it happens and who is invited.

It's your meeting

Who comes to the meeting is down to you. You may be worried about certain relatives coming to the meeting, sometimes close family friends attend as they feel more like family than relatives themselves.

We would suggest that the best people to help you usually are your own relatives.

Your needs and wellbeing is the most important thing, if you have any worries about who should come along you can discuss this with your co-ordinator.



What happens at a Family Group Conference?

Prior to the meeting you will be allocated a co-ordinator, it is their job to help get your family together at an agreed time and place. Your co-ordinator will help to make sure that your family are given clear information on what the concerns are, and what help and support is available to help you. When you and your family are ready, you will be left in private, this means no social workers or other professionals will be in the room whilst you and your family talk things through. You and your family can take as long as you need to discuss the options and decide on the best solution.

It is important that your wishes and feelings are taken into account. If at any point you feel that you are not being heard, you can ask your co-ordinator for help.

What happens next?

When you and your family have talked decisions through and come up with a plan, your co-ordinator will join you and go over the plan with you. Unless it is considered that the decisions and plan made by you and your family put you in danger, the plan will be accepted. We will then work with you and your family to put the plan into action. Your co-ordinator will take a copy of the plan away with them and then send a copy to the family members which were at the meeting.

What if I don't agree with the family decision or plan?

Your age and understanding of what is happening will play a part in the decision, but we believe that children and young people should be fully involved in the Family Group Conference. If there are any real differences, you can ask your co-ordinator to help.

