


## **Who should come to a Family Group Conference?**

This will be different for each family. Some families 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 a child or young person are nearly always their own relatives.

Any worries about who should attend should be discussed with your co-ordinator.



In any discussions; it is the needs and wellbeing of the child or young person which is of greatest importance.

## **What about the cost of coming to a Family Group Conference?**

We can help you with any travel costs associated with coming to a conference. Please speak to your co-ordinator if you need help.



## **Where can I get more information?**

Talk: talk to your social worker

Web: [www.torbay.gov.uk/fgc](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/fgc)

Email: [FGC.referrals@torbay.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/childrens-complaints)



# Family Group Conference Service

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## Information for families

We think families are able to make better decisions about their children than we can.

A Family Group Conference is a process led by family members to plan and make decisions for your child.

Family Group Conference's put the child or young people at the heart of the decision making process. They are extremely effective in making safe plans for the child or young person, improving outcomes and promoting positive changes.

Choosing to take part in a Family Group Conference is a voluntary process, and although you cannot be forced into having a meeting the process has lots of benefits.

# There are three stages to the Family Group Conference process

## Stage 1: The referral

A referral is made by the child's social worker.

Once a referral has been made, you will be allocated a co-ordinator who acts as a neutral person and will not influence the planning of the meeting.

## Stage 2: Preparation

Your co-ordinator will organise the Family Group Conference with the child / young person, parents with parental responsibility and other family carers. They help to identify who is in the family and who has a say in the decision for the child or young person.

## Stage 3: The conference

The first part of the meeting will be led by your co-ordinator. They will make sure everyone is introduced and that everyone understands the purpose of the meeting, and establish any ground rules.

When you are ready, you will be left in private to discuss the plan together. There is no need to hurry as your co-ordinator will always be on hand to respond to any questions.

When you have agreed a plan, your co-ordinator will discuss the plan with you. Unless it is considered that the child or young person is in danger the plan will be agreed.

We will keep the plan you made and distribute it to the social worker and other relevant professionals.

We will continue to work with you; it is really important that you implements their part of the plan within the agreed timescale and address any problems that arise.

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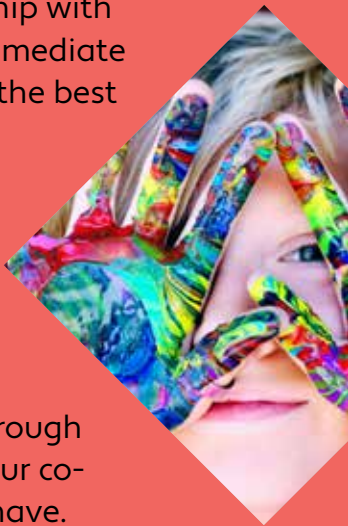
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# Family Group Conferences FAQs

## What if my child or young person does not agree with the family decision or plan?

We believe that children and young people should be involved in the Family Group Conference and that their wishes and feelings are taken into account, their age and understanding will play a part in this. If there are any real differences you can ask your co-ordinator for help and guidance.



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

We will only disagree with your plan if we think it will leave your child or children at risk. You might then decide to hold another conference to change the plan.

If we do not agree with your plan, we will fully explain the reasons to you.